

MISSIONARY news

from Kenya, with love Spring 2018

Blake and Esther Gibbs

This New Year is already shaping up to be a busy one for us.

We leave for another trip to Kenya on March 20th. It will be a relatively short trip for us—only about 17 days. It will be good to be back with Chris and Tammy Page and their family. And, it will be a treat to see Andrea and Jonathan Dowell and their precious little Madison Joy. It will be our first time to see Maddy, so we are very excited about that!

We can't wait to see and spend time with our Kenyan staff. They are dedicated to the Lord and committed to doing their very best for Him and for Agape. They're a truly remarkable group. We thoroughly enjoy being with them. We are grateful for their love and friendship. It will be good to be back!

Shortly after we return home, we will be going to Arizona to attend our eldest grandson, Davy's, graduation from Grand Canyon University.

He is a Graphic Arts Major. We are very proud of him. (He's looking for business if you need design help with a brochure, website, etc.)

In early May we will be in Dallas, Texas participating in the CAFO (Christian Alliance for Orphans) 2018 Summit. We've been asked to conduct a workshop on how the Lord is granting Agape such remarkable success in reintegrating children back into their families and extended families. It's an amazing opportunity. Please be praying the Lord will enable us to effectively communicate what He is doing and the lessons we have learned.

Thank you for praying for us and for your generous, faithful financial support. We are grateful to the Lord for each one of you and pray He blesses you richly.

Blake & Esther

The Page Family

It's too hot in Kisumu!!! This is the seventh dry season that we've weathered in Kenya (no pun intended), and I'm always shocked at how hot and dry it gets here in January/February. In the US, everyone longs for March with the hope of warmer temperatures. In Kisumu, we long for March with the hope of rain and cooler temperatures!

Tammy and the kids continue to stay busy with school and life in Kisumu. Connor has been thoroughly enjoying herself over the past month as we've been hosting Laura Jackson and Anna Paulk, two young ladies from the US, on our compound while they serve as missions interns with Agape. Laura and Anna have been hard at work at Agape, reviewing the components of the ministry's

counseling, evangelism, and discipleship programs and making recommendations for improvements. In their downtime, they've also been wonderful friends to Connor. Thank you, Laura and Anna!

In March and April, we begin a super-busy time of hosting visitors to Agape. Over the next six weeks, we will welcome ten visitors to Agape, some staying for just a week and others staying for as long as four months. Yikes! Please pray for us during this busy time!

We are so thankful for your ongoing prayers and support. Thank you all for partnering with us in this work!

The Pages: Chris, Tammy, Sutton, Connor, Seth, Lyla, Cole, & Emma



Steve and Dianne Warn

If you are taking time to read this blurb about the Warns, it shows that you care... something for which we are sincerely thankful and could not do without!

We know you pray and God uses you to meet needs—that is the wonder of the body of Christ! Ephesians 4: 15,16 tells us that just by being connected and using our gifts we are causing growth of the BODY for the edifying of itself in love. Thank you, Thank you! Thank you!

Where in the world are the Warns and what is happening with them?

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our second year of transition off the foreign field. We find ourselves as busy as ever with Agape, but with one huge advantage—we are more available to our family, something long overdue and a coveted privilege.

Our biggest news is the birth of our first grandson, Theodore Duryea Warn! He made his appearance on February 17 to our youngest son, Nate and his wife Meg and two year old, Miriam, who wants to tell everyone all about it! Nathan is a Hospice chaplain besides being an ordained minister at Holy Trinity Anglican church, Colorado Springs, and Meg works as an Occupational

Therapist when she is not caring for their growing family.

Last year we were able to be with them several times to help out, and we'll go again in March for two weeks to get acquainted with Theo and of course, play with Miriam.

For now we are staying with our middle son, David, in his home in Modesto. He is single, and spends long hours working as a computer programmer, mostly from home. We help add balance to his life, and he's happy to have "free housekeeping" and "room service." Seriously, we enjoy fellowship around the Word of God when time allows.

Aaron, our oldest, Melissa, his Costa Rican wife, and our granddaughter, Raquel live only five minutes away, so when I am not working on editing the Agape Curriculum, talking with staff and boys in Africa, or updating our Agape Prayer Team, Raquel and I do everything from playing in cardboard boxes that turn into "forts" or "ships," to horseback riding and sewing projects. Steve gets his grandpa time in the garden and at parks.

Together with her mom and dad, we are making up for lost time and supporting each other as couples as much as we can. We are so grateful

for those times—cold water to thirsty souls—precious gifts from our perfect Heavenly Father.

For those of you who know about our daughter, Elizabeth, and are faithfully praying, we cannot thank you enough. Just like it says in Psalm 139:10, His right hand has a tight hold on her! He is our Trust and Hope. She has a webpage and apparently is a very successful costume designer in Hollywood.

Steve is spending more time helping his aging parents, age 96 and 90, who still live in their own home. Many of you know what that involves, so you know how to pray!

That's our personal update. Agape-wise, we are hoping to take a short-term team to Agape late May or early June. If you are interested, please contact us for further details: 209-622-3016.

Besides the curriculum and prayer support, we will be actively involved in recruiting new missionaries for Agape, which means some traveling, yeah! Don't be surprised if we end up on your doorstep!!

Steve and Dianne

The Dowell Family

I'm sure that many of you know this last month has been one of both joy and sorrow for our family. Jonathan's father, Virgil, went home be with his Heavenly Father on January 30th, just 14 hours after we arrived back at home. Virgil battled with illness for many years, and, though his passing was not entirely unexpected, it was still so difficult for all of us. We are grateful that we made it in time so he could meet Madison Joy. That brief time will be a memory to hold onto forever. We spent much of the first part of our U.S. visit surrounded by family who traveled for the service. Madison Joy got to meet all of her grandparents, both of her great grandmothers, all of her aunts, uncles, cousins and so many other extended family members. It was definitely bittersweet, as we rarely get to see all of those sweet family members during our short stateside visits. Virgil's service was held on Feb 12th, and it was an incredibly honoring service for the man of God he was. He will be so missed by all of us. May the way he lived his life—to point others to Christ in everything he did and show Christ's love to everyone around him—be an example and challenge to us all.

Shortly after the service we traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, for our last two weeks to spend time with Andrea's family. It was such a great time to enjoy some outdoor activities and get to spend quality time with Grandpa and Grandma Worcester and Auntie Dani. Now, we are preparing to head back to Kenya and hit the ground running. The Kitale project is well on the way, and we are so excited for all the activity that is ahead of us. Our family will be (temporarily) relocating to Kitale to help with the startup of the project. By March/April of this year, we hope to identify a new home for us in Kitale and start the process of moving. We will likely be splitting time between Kitale and Kisumu until the summer, which is when we will be in Kitale full

time. We wanted to thank you all for your prayers and encouragement for us during this emotional time. Please continue to pray for our family as we grieve the loss of Virgil and prepare to return to Kenya. We are so thankful for our prayer partners and supporters in the U.S. who continue to lift us and our ministry up. Thank you for standing with us always.

In Love,

The Dowells

