

MISSIONARY news

from Kenya, with love Summer 2017

Blake and Esther Gibbs

We have been busy since our return from Africa. Two days after we arrived home, we drove to Southern California. Then Blake flew to New York for five days with our son, Tyler. Since then, we performed a wedding in Modesto and then had a second trip to Southern California for a family wedding.

June will mark the beginning of several more trips to visit individuals and churches who support Agape. Towards the middle of the month, following another trip to Southern California, we will embark on a two-week road trip to the Pacific Northwest—Oregon and Washington. In mid-September, we will be in New York. In early October, we will have an extended, probably three-week, trip to the South and East.

We enjoy visiting with people and seeing the remarkable beauty of America. But, we have to admit that these trips do wear us down a bit, so we ask you to be praying for us. We need the Lord's protection as we travel all those miles. We need Him to keep us well and healthy. We need Him to bless our meetings (both those we have planned and un-planned encounters the Lord has a way of orchestrating in all of our lives).

Thank you for your prayers and for your faithful financial support. You are a blessing and encouragement to us.

Blake & Esther

Jonathan and Andrea Dowell

We are just two months (or less!) away from heading back to the U.S. for the month of August. So much has happened in the past month, but it seems like there is so much left to do to prepare for our campus shutdown.

Construction on campus is going so well. We've been able to finish most of the interior remodel of the new girls' dorm and even some cosmetic work on the boys' dorm to make it look nice and new. What remains to finish on the Agape Girls Dorm construction is the wall surrounding the girls' dorm and also finishing the new boys' latrine since our existing latrine will now exist within the wall of the girls' area. With some minor modifications as we go along, it looks like our new girls' dorm will hold 28-30 girls and have a living area inside, complete with some homework tables and comfortable couches. This is such an answer to prayer! In April, we were above capacity for our current girls' center, which just highlights for us the need to increase the capacity so we can better serve the needs of the girls in Kisumu.

Not only is construction in full swing, but we are preparing to shut down our campus for the month of August due to the presidential election on the 8th of that month. This month, we'll be intentional about the cases we bring onto campus and work to identify and prepare families on a faster timeline. By the end of July, all children will be off campus and safely in a home for the month of August. If their own home/family is a safe situation, that is where they will be temporarily placed. For any child remaining who does not have a safe home or family identified by the end of July, they will be placed in a temporary foster situation with a staff member. They will stay with one of our staff members and their family during the month and return to campus once we reopen our facility. All of our staff, excluding our guards, will be released for the month of August to go to their rural homes. Although we do not anticipate major violence in Kisumu, we are taking the precaution to close down to allow staff the freedom to do what they need to do to keep themselves and their family members safe. We are praying for a safe and peaceful election in August and taking steps to ensure the safety of our children and staff members at Agape.

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers. We are so grateful to see God answering BIG prayers on campus through this major construction project and so excited to see His work continue in Kisumu.

In Love,

Jonathan & Andrea



Steve and Dianne Warn

Part of Agape Children's Ministry's motto is "Bringing hope to street children in Kenya." Romans 15:13

The word HOPE is full of meaning. It could be; Heaven, Open, Please, Enter! Or how about, "Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up." That's HOPE. Being able to see some of the fruit in the lives of former Agape boys (now young men) God touched through Agape is hope realized. The picture is a Bible study in a large aluminum plant in Mombassa. PTL !

Thanks,

Steve and Dianne

Psalm 33:20-22



The Page Family

In less than three months, my Kenyan brothers and sisters will hold their presidential elections, and as that date nears things keep getting stranger and tenser in Kenya. There is a fear in Kisumu that there may be violence, as many perceive that the ruling Jubilee Party will never give up power. Meanwhile, the opposing ODM Party claims that they "will not be cheated out of the presidency again." Sometimes, it seems as if we're sitting on a keg of gunpowder.

Just recently, we've been experiencing shortages of different foodstuffs in Kisumu, and the prices of many staple foods like maize flour and sugar have doubled. Right now, a pound of butter costs \$8.00. Many believe that government leaders are manipulating prices to steal more money for their re-election campaigns or to fund their lavish lifestyles after leaving office. Should we be surprised that Kenya ranks as one of the most corrupt nations in the world? Please pray that God will continue to shine His light into Kenyan hearts "to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)

In light of what is expected in Kenya over the next few months, we're thankful that God has provided the means for our family to travel



The Kenyan Children's Consortium visits Agape!

back to the USA for that time. Our furlough schedule is coming together bit-by-bit:

- July 30th: Grace Community Church – Rincon, GA
- August 6th: Community Bible Church – Beaufort, SC
- August 13th: Springfield United Methodist Church – Springfield, GA
- August 20th: Hudson United Methodist Church – Hudson, NC
- August 27th: Islands Christian Church – Savannah, GA
- September 3rd: OPEN
- September 10th: Hocutt Baptist Church – Clayton, NC
- September 17th: Southside Church – Clayton, NC
- September 24th: OPEN
- October 1st: OPEN
- October 8th: OPEN

We just have a few open Sundays left! If you would be interested to hear more about the work God is doing to minister to at-risk children in Kenya, we'd love to share with your church, school, Bible study, or small group.

Thank you for partnering with us in this work!

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