

# MISSIONARY news

*from Kenya, with love* Spring 2019

## DOWELL HOME

God has been working overtime in February. This month started with us in Kisumu, finishing up our workshop on Family Reunification. It was an amazing time with hundreds of participants from different countries learning more about the "how" of reintegration, our process that we've developed for preparing children to go back home and preparing families to receive their child after a period of rehabilitation. It was so mind-blowing to see the number of people and organizations hungry for this information and looking forward to start the process of reuniting some of the children currently in their care with their biological family members (see the statistics on pg 1 of the quarterly).

Because of this, Jonathan has moved to take on a role within Agape that is geared towards consulting with these organizations and looking ahead to Agape's future expansion and multiplication. He has already done some visits with organizations in Kitale and neighboring cities to follow up from the conference and see how Agape can walk alongside these organizations as they work to reunite children with their families. Since Jonathan has shifted to this role, Andrea has taken on the full directorship of Agape Kitale. She is happy being in the office each and every day with

her amazing staff who have so far worked with nearly 200 different children from the streets and government custody in the last eight months. Andrea helps with case management of children on campus and works closely with our four managers on campus with any staff or child-specific issues.

In February, we were also able to host some friends, the McIntire family, who are prayerfully considering coming on board as missionaries to Agape Children's Ministry. We look forward to meeting another family in March, the Sabo family, who are also prayerfully considering coming onboard with Agape, as well. God is doing big, big things, and we are blessed to be along for the ride. Thank you for your prayers and support for our family. Prayers are being answered, families are being restored, and children and their families are coming to know Christ and allowing Him to transform their lives. He is a big God, and even though the job before us seems so big, we know He is faithful and bigger than any of the obstacles that try to get in our way.

In love,  
*The Dowells*



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## RYAN AND TAMARAH MCINTIRE

We are very excited to introduce ourselves to the Agape community! We are the McIntires, family of six. In February, four of us made the journey from our hometown of Seattle, Washington to Kisumu, Kenya, and then on to Kitale. This journey was to see if working with Agape Children's Ministry is indeed what God is leading us to next, and we are happy to share that the answer is a resounding YES! While Seattle is our home town, our family recently lived two years in Papua New Guinea (PNG) working as Regional Center Managers for Wycliffe Bible Translators. We had returned to the states for the birth of our fourth child late spring of 2018, and the Lord used our time back in Seattle to redirect our paths from the important work of Bible translation to the (also) important work of child reunification. The story of this transition from PNG to Kenya is beautiful, a story only the Lord could write.

Previous to missions, Ryan has worked in operations management in the transportation industry. He is passionate about being a great boss, providing resources and encouragement to his employees that empowers them in both home and work life. Ryan also enjoys dissecting and improving processes, and while it has been a hobby, he is a talented mechanic. Previous to my

transition to stay-at-home mom, I (Tamarah) worked as a manager in retail. What I loved most in this season was developing people, managing a team, and ensuring that all departments understood one another and worked well together. Now I focus on the home and development of our four kids ages seven months, four, nine, and fourteen. In Papua New Guinea as a family, we rolled up our sleeves to balance life and ministry as we ran a regional center. Managing a regional center involves a multitude of tasks that can be boiled down to running a guest house and providing total support to the nearby translation teams for any of their needs; including but not limited to shopping for provisions, transportation, maintenance of equipment and encouragement. What was most valuable about our time in Papua New Guinea is our personal growth in our depth of faith and reliance on the Lord and the way He revealed to us the beauty of His people in every nation and culture. We look forward to seeing how all of these skills can continue to bloom in Kenya. We invite you to pray for us as we hope to be on the ground in Kenya in three months!

Love,  
*The McIntires*



## AGAPE PAGES

Can you believe that Agape has rescued 2,600 new children from the streets and governmental incarceration since our family moved to Kenya in August 2011? 2,600 children. It's hard to believe! Amazingly, so many of those children's faces and names have stuck in my mind over the years, especially those boys who were on campus when we first moved to Kisumu. Mike is one of those boys; he has this great smile that's impossible to forget!

In August 2011, Mike had already been on campus for five months after being rescued from living on Kisumu's streets. Mike's father had passed away, and his mother was struggling terribly to

provide for Mike and his younger sister. It was during this time that Mike began living on the streets. After attempting to find ways to survive in Kisumu and another nearby town, Mike's mother decided to move to Homa Bay to live with her husband's family in rural Kenya. Here she was able to find stability for her small family. The local community and her husband's family embraced her, even helping her to start a small farm on her husband's land.

In August 2012, Agape reunited Mike with his mother and younger sister in Homa Bay, and Mike began to flourish, quickly rising to the top of his class at school. Because Mike's family doesn't have much, Agape paid for his school fees throughout high school, and year after year, he has continued to rank at the top of his class. Just last week, Mike dropped by Agape to share that he had finished his high school exams, was placed in the top 1.8% nationally, and is en route to university. But, most importantly, Mike wanted to stop by to say "Thank you!" I was also encouraged to learn from Pastor Joel that Mike has continued to grow in his relationship with Christ over the years. God is so good!

Thank you for partnering with us in this work!

*The Pages*

## HERSCOWITZ HORIZONS

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?" Matt 16:24-26 NLT*

Greetings All,

In our last newsletter we shared with you that we were going to attend a mission conference, Mission ConneXion in Portland, OR. It was awe-filled and healing on so many levels! We were with our former missionary teammates, Steve and Dianne Warn. We also got to visit with some friends, the Freitas family, who served in Tanzania while we served in Kenya. Our hearts were full remembering the fun times we shared, but also the challenging times, too. There were a few tears shed as we were able to share our respect and love for each other.

The theme of the conference was Worth It? Is what, "Worth It?" What does that mean? In the passage above, Jesus says we must give up our own way, our life, our world, in order to follow Him. Is it easy to give up everything to follow Jesus, and how far are we willing to go? We heard from speakers who have served in areas of the world that are hostile to the US. Wow, that is a tough challenge. Every day, all of us face challenges, but where do we draw the line as to how far we will go to follow Jesus?

We can personally tell you that yes, it is Worth It. Agape Children's Ministry would not be where it is today if the missionaries past, present, and future were not willing to give up everything to follow Jesus. *My steps have stayed on your path; I have not wavered from following you.* Psalms 17:5 NLT

We've shared in the past about how the Lord really impressed upon our hearts, even as far back as 2007, to get the children of Agape reunited with their families. We knew that it would not be an easy process, but we also knew that it would be Worth It. There was a lot of resistance, not only from the children, but from the Agape staff and our Agape teammates and leadership. This process would change the face of Agape. How would Agape's faithful supporters receive the news that we were sending children home when we were all led to believe that the children were orphans? How would the Children's Department, the police department, and the Remand center (juvenile delinquency) accept that it would be better for the children to be home as opposed to institutional living? Were we willing to persevere through the very tough ground that was before us? Would the battle be Worth It? The answer to that question is YES. It was Worth It!

We are happy to share that Agape held its first Agape Family Reunification Workshop in Kisumu, Kenya the last week of January. Do you know how exciting that is? To see the Agape Model of reunifying families

shared with the world is awe-inspiring. There are over 150 million children living on the streets around the world, and Agape is joining in the campaign to get them home! Is it Worth It? Absolutely! We are super excited to be joining up with our Agape missionary teammates at the CAFO (Christian Alliance for Orphans) convention in May and then spending a couple of weeks with them this summer when we visit Kenya!

Thank you to all who are current supporters of us and/or Agape. We couldn't do this without you. Our prayer is that you will see that it is Worth It to follow those nudges when the Lord plants something in your heart and be willing to join in the wave to get children home!

Blessings,  
*Mike and Karen*

*But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus – the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God. Acts of the Apostles 20:24-26 NLT*

