

MISSIONARY news

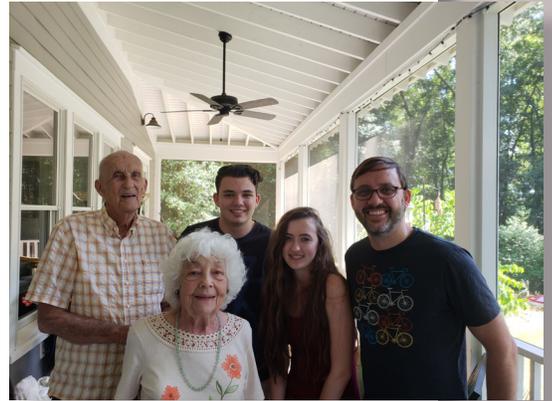
from Kenya, with love Summer 2019

AGAPE PAGES

Hello USA . . . and goodbye, again! May was dominated by a whirlwind trip back to the USA with Sutton, Connor, and I (Chris) traveling 20,000 miles by air and almost 2,000 miles by car – whew! The first half of our trip was spent in Louisville, KY at the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) Annual Summit where Agape's missionaries spoke at numerous workshops, panel discussions, and coaching tables about our efforts to reconcile vulnerable children to God and family through the Gospel and love of Christ. While in Louisville, I also got to spend a little time with Ryan McIntire as he and his family prepare to move to Kenya as Agape missionaries in August 2019. After the conference, we drove to NC and had the opportunity to worship with our sending church, Southside Church, in Clayton, NC. Along the way, we visited my brother and his family in Lebanon, TN and my sister and her family in Huntersville, NC. We then headed south to help my parents pack up their house in Hampton, SC as they prepared to move four hours north to Greenville, SC, later squeezing in a quick day's visit to see my grandparents in Charleston, SC. We then linked up with the rest of the Agape missionary team in Georgia for two days of meetings and fellowship with the Dowells and the Corbitts. Lastly, I jumped on

the plane to head back to Tammy, Seth, Lyla, Cole, and Emma in Kenya. Sutton and Connor are enjoying the next two months in the US with friends and family and will come back to Kenya in mid-July. We are so grateful to the Lord for the safety that He granted my family in Kenya and in the US over the past month! We're all still trying to catch our breath.

Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and support; we are so fortunate to have friends and family who love the Lord and partner with us in this work!



The Pages



DOWELL HOME

Since our last newsletter, we've traveled to the US, and we are already back in Kenya again! We spent two and a half weeks in the US in May in four different new-to-us-states. We participated in the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) conference in Louisville, Kentucky during the first week in May. It was an exciting time to get to share with others what God is doing through Agape! We had a chance to lead a workshop as well as several focused coaching tables. What a blessing to be surrounded by SO MANY people with a heart for orphans and vulnerable children around the world. We even got to attend some other workshops and learn from other experts in the field. We are grateful for our time sharing, teaching, coaching, listening, learning, and connecting during CAFO. And, what an even bigger joy that we could be there with almost all of our Agape team! I don't think we've been able to get that many of our Agape missionaries together in one place for a long time! What a sweet time of sharing, encouraging and fellowship together!

Andrea's parents and sister joined us for our time in Louisville to hang out with Madison while we were at the conference during the daytime. It was a big blessing! After the conference and a couple more days sightseeing around Kentucky and Indiana, the Dowells and Worcesters headed to New Orleans for three more days of sightseeing. We had quite an adventure on a swamp tour (somehow Madison stayed mostly still on a boat for two hours) and walking around historic New Orleans. It was a precious time

of making family memories together. Then, it was time for the Dowells to move on. Our family of three headed to Georgia for the last four days of time in the US to meet with our Executive Director, Wesley Corbitt, and our Field Director, Chris Page, for some time of planning and praying together. Jonathan's mom flew out to be with us during our time in Georgia, which was a win-win. She got to spend time with Madison, which freed us up to dive into work with our team. Our time in the US was over so quickly, but we were happy to head back home to Kitale and continue the work there.

Thank you for your prayers for rain! As I sit typing this, a heavy, heavy rainstorm is at work outside. Consistent rains came while we were away, and we are so thankful! Be in prayer for our family as we move houses and prepare to receive quite a few wonderful friends and visitors in the coming months. Our time in the US served as a time of refreshment and huge encouragement to continue on in this big work God has equipped us for and called us to. We are thankful for all that He is doing in the lives of these children and their families and for the exciting work He still has ahead for us!

In love, *The Dowells*

HERSCOWITZ HORIZONS

Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Col 3:13-14 CEB

Greetings!

Wow...powerful words...love and forgiveness...how many times do we face situations, in our own lives and those around us, where the only solution to a problem is through love and forgiveness? We had an incredible time in Kentucky the first week of May, where we experienced the deeply profound meaning of these two words. We had the joy of attending the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) Conference and met family members whom we had recently learned of, through Ancestry! The theme of the conference was In Brokenness and Beauty, It Is Well. We experienced so many different aspects of love and forgiveness, from the perspective of a mother who grieved the loss of her child through adoption, to an adoptee who is filled with forgiveness for the extremely blessed life she has had, to being foster parents battling daily with forgiveness towards birth parents, to see and feel the love families have for their foster/adopted child and how the child thrives within their

adoptive family, and the tireless servants who have heard the call to serve the least of these. Psalms 133:1 CEB

It was awesome to be with our Agape team of missionaries from Kenya, who were stateside to present at the CAFO Conference. It's hard to put into words the overflowing love and respect we have for Andrea and Jonathan Dowell and Chris Page and his family, as they continue to serve at-risk and vulnerable children through Agape's vision of reuniting families. It's also hard to put into words how humbled and in awe we are as to the HUGE strides the Lord is making through Agape. 2008 was a very broken and unhealthy time in Kenya's political history, and the Lord used it for His glory. When Agape had to close campus and send the children home, they stayed at home. This caused us to question why the children were institutionalized and not at home with family. 1 Cor 13:7 TPT

It was cool to have Agape's past Director Blake Gibbs and his wife Esther, along with the current Director Wesley Corbitt and his wife Pam there, too. It was great to have the team together and to witness how the Lord used each of us in different capacities. The missionaries presented at multiple workshops and coaching tables,

on the modality of reintegrating children within family. Agape hosted table talks on some of the logistics of reintegration. We manned the exhibit booth, where we were able to field a lot of questions and make connections with people from all over the world who are interested in learning more about getting children out of institutions and back home in family. The Agape Model has officially been shared globally! Col 3:13-14 CEB.

Who knew that twelve years later, Agape would successfully reintegrate over 2300 children and be on the forefront of a global movement? Friends, please be encouraged when the Lord nudges you to do something, do it. It is in His timing, not ours. Psalms 103:17 TPT

We thank each of you for your prayers and financial support. We are super excited to be heading over to Kenya at the end of June to see, hear, feel and love on our Agape family. We will be sharing at a couple of churches in the Sacramento Valley area when we get back. If anyone is interested in learning more about Agape or the Agape Model, we would love to share with you! Let us know.

Blessings,

Mike and Karen



THE MCINTIRES

Transitioning organizations is not easy, but God has been moving mountains over the last few months. We are planning on getting to Kenya in August, and we continue to pray through the remaining obstacles. May was an amazing month. Among other things, Ryan was able to meet most of the US-based Agape team at the CAFO summit in Louisville, KY.

Love,

The McIntires

WARN UPDATE

We're so glad for a chance to write a brief update on our retirement to touch base with all of you! We have heard directly and indirectly that there is a need for some clarification as to our status. We are retired, but are still officially with Agape until the end of the year, which means that until December 31, 2019, you can still contribute to our support. All of those donations go directly into the Warn retirement account. The Agape Board has set things up so that we receive a small monthly "pension" (for want of a better word) from those funds until they run out. We are very grateful for this provision from the Lord and for each one of you who persists in giving! May God richly bless you!

Apart from our official status of retired, we remain active in Agape. Dianne still coordinates prayer support for the 120+ children on campus. The prayer team consists of four key coordinators

and a team of 115. She also hopes to make a trip to Kenya before the end of the year to support one of Agape's new missionaries, Cheryl Insua, as she develops a new language curriculum.

Besides Agape involvement, we have started to branch out locally in ministry to Afghan refugees and their children, a Good News club in our neighborhood school, Rock Solid kids in Celebrate Recovery, Impact Missions class at BVCS, men's ministry, prison visitation...etc.

We hope to share the details in a future newsletter!

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age: They shall be fresh and flourishing. Psalm 92:13,14

Love,

Steve and Dianne