

the heartbeat of agape

Spring 2020



Living a Radical Life

By: Leanna Simpson, Executive Director

With the onset of spring, we begin the Easter season and we are again reminded of how Jesus has brought the dead to life through His resurrection from the grave that first Easter morning.

“New life” is just the beginning of each of our stories because, when Jesus gets ahold of our lives, we are not left where He finds us. He radically changes us. In fact, the life we would have lived is dead, and the new life we have in Him is no longer our own, but Christ’s who lives in us.

This life of radical transformation can be seen in **Mark 14:3b: “there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head.”**

This passage in Mark reflects on how a woman came in while Jesus was eating and took perfume and anointed His head. This perfume was worth a whole year’s salary. It might have even been passed down for years or generations within her family...whatever the case, she broke it, ensuring that nothing could be salvaged for later, and poured it all out for Jesus.

What faith she had! She did not know Jesus was soon to die, she did not know if her future would be financially stable – what she did know was that there was a man named Jesus, who had looked into her heart and soul and left her irreversibly changed. She knew that, in that moment, the Spirit of the Living God was calling her to not worry about the whispers, not worry about what tomorrow

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Resource and Educational Expansion

In April of 2020, we will be opening our doors for our new resource and educational building expansion at 2222 Bennett Street, around the corner from our clinic location!

Within the walls of the new building, you will find:

- 3 individual one on one classrooms, overseen by individual facilitators
- 2 handicap accessible washer/dryers for laundry access during classroom time

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In lieu of recent events we have Postponed our

Community Open House

instead we will be offering

Online Virtual Tours

To Showcase Our New Expansion
& Office Renovations

Living a Radical Life article continued from cover...

would bring, but to boldly show every single person in that room, for miles to hear, for centuries to recount, the story of a woman who allowed herself to be totally poured out, all in, changed, redeemed, and a follower of a radical man named Jesus Christ, who claimed to be the Son of the Living God.

Think about leaving that kind of legacy. How I long for that kind of legacy for Agape, for myself, for each of you! A life that is so radical, actions that are so outside of man's understanding but so perfectly and precisely what God would desire....to be so close to the heart and mind of Christ that you know immediately what a life of worship looks like.

What I know to be true is this: **When God calls us to follow Him, this means a radical life will follow.**

This is so unbelievably exciting, and yet so scary – to think of a life where your tomorrow is planned and

orchestrated by the God of the universe, knowing that we must hand Him our today and our tomorrow, knowing that His ways are not our ways, and knowing that His plans are better than our own.

I am so excited to say that we are continuing to ask God to lead Agape in “radical” new ways. God is continuing to ask us to have faith **first**, and He offers His provision **after** we take that step of faith. God is continuing to ask us to step into new and uncharted places.

Join me today in choosing to follow Christ in new ways. Let's choose **radical**, my friends, and together we can serve Christ more and serve Him better!

Thank you for taking my hand and walking this journey with me!

Resource and Educational Expansion continued from cover...

- Individualized case management with individually developed and targeted care planning designed to educate, equip, and empower every participant.
- Registered nurse consultations by trimester
- Group classes (i.e. Infant/Toddler music time, birthing classes, Spiritual development, meal planning, financial management, etc.)
- Tiny Hands Boutique – offering new clothing and baby supplies that will be available for current clients in our educational classes
- Helping Hands Pantry – offering food/hygiene product access for current clients in our educational classes

Our Resource Services will be overseen by our new Resource Services Manager, Christina Reaman. Christina feels incredibly blessed to join the Agape team. The Agape mission is near and dear to her heart as she was placed for adoption as a baby and is so thankful that her birth mother chose life for her. She is excited to be serving the Lord by using



*Christina Reaman,
Resource Services
Manager*

her education and background in social services and early childhood development here at Agape. She prays that she can display the hope and restoration she has experienced in her own life through her relationship with Jesus Christ to the clients that we serve.

This building will provide:

- Case Management
- Individually tailored classes
- Group classes (ranging from parenting, childbirth, finance, health, employment readiness, and religion)
- Hygiene pantry
- Food Pantry
- Boutique
- Laundry Access
- Job coaching

The ministry and services at Agape are completely and totally funded by individual contributions and donations. God is faithful and what He has brought us to, He will surely see us through! God has given us a huge mission and task. But we serve a HUGE God who has equipped us and brought us to this moment and to this task. We will never be enough, but He will ALWAYS and forever be more than enough. Please continue to join us for the journey and pray for us to be prepared for the task.



agape 
PREGNANCY
RESOURCE CENTER

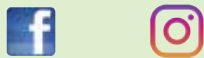
Serving Des Moines and the surrounding area for over 35 years, offering education and quality services to help our clients make informed decisions. We are fully-funded by the generosity of businesses and individuals in the community.

Donations can be mailed to:

2550 Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy.
Des Moines, IA 50310

515.255.0243
www.agapedsm.com/involved
accounts@agapedsm.com

Follow us on social media



@agapeDSM

Hours:

Mondays & Thursdays

10:30am – 6:00pm

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

10:30am – 4:00pm

Closed on Fridays

2nd & 4th Saturday of each month

9:00am – 12:30pm

Services offered at no charge:

- Pregnancy tests
- Ultrasounds
- STD testing
- Client advocacy
- Educational classes
- Infant care supplies

Ways to get involved:

- Donate
- Provide wish list items
- Contribute to our Endowment fund
- Volunteer
- Plan/host a service project

Did You Know?

It saves us \$5,800/year when you sign-up to receive this newsletter electronically! Sign up at www.agapedsm.com.

Check Out Our Updated Website

Our website has a fresh and beautiful new look!

You'll find expanded content for our donors, resources for our clients, and receive updates about all the great things that are happening at Agape.

Visit www.agapedsm.com today, and while you're there, sign-up to receive this newsletter electronically. In 2021, we will be transitioning to a digital newsletter, and we don't want you to miss a thing!



Board of Directors Corner

Laurie Zepp, Vice President



Laurie joined the Agape Board of Directors in the fall of 2016. The mission of Agape is personal for Laurie, as her husband,

stepson, son, grandson, and son-in-law were all "unexpected." She understands that having information and resources available at that time is critical; having people available to provide truth, unconditional love, and a listening ear is life changing. The commitment and dedication of Agape's staff and volunteers to do just that day in and day out is amazing and so inspiring. To God be the glory!



New T-Shirts are Here!



We are so excited to have two new t-shirt options! The royal blue shirt is a unisex option for the whole family, and the #LOVE shirt is a fun option for the ladies! Both shirts come in sizes S-3XL and are \$10 each. We will be offering them for purchase every day during normal office hours.

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My Agape Story: The Geisel Family

By: Karissa Geisel

Tyler and I had been married for one year before finding out we were pregnant. I remember taking a home test. Positive. When I told my husband, I was so ecstatic but completely terrified. We were 20 years old at the time, 11 hours away from ANY family, and still barely making solid friendships. We were scared. In my head, I had the assumption that an "at home test" was just about the same as taking my temperature at home. I felt pregnant, had all the early signs, but in my mind, until someone with experience told me that I was pregnant, there was still a chance I was just feeling off and the tests weren't accurate.

I called a recommended OB/GYN and they scheduled an appointment for me that was 8 weeks away. That's a long time to wait. After getting off the phone, I realized I just wanted someone who had experience to tell me and my husband, "This is great, let me help you!" And then I stumbled upon Agape.



Visit the "Our Clients' Stories" section of our website to read the rest of the Geisel Family's story of help and hope, care and compassion.