

the heartbeat of agape

Summer 2023



Trusting God – a Leap of Faith

By Leanna Simpson, Executive Director

As we begin our 38th year of operation, everyone at Agape continues to marvel at the supernatural provision, protection, and endurance God has given this ministry.

Many, many victories have been won by the power of our God. In the Old Testament, the Israelites would pay tribute after a victory by building an altar for all to see. Everyone who passed by would marvel and **know**. They would know that the Israelites were there. They would know the battle was won. They would know that the God of the Israelites had, once again, done the impossible.

Two and a half years ago, God began pressing heavily on our hearts and minds to prepare to build an altar. You see, the Agape property has had many obstacles over the years. The task and cost to mitigate these obstacles seemed beyond reason and possibility; they felt like a battle of heavenly proportions. Every step forward toward a reasonable resolution was distracted and disarmed with physical, financial, and emotional roadblocks.

Over these last few years, God began moving His people to go above and beyond in giving generously toward the \$774,500 financial need of the project. However, on the evening of April 25th, we knew that the opportunity to move forward with the project this year was closing. The status of the funding was simple: **there was a financial shortfall of \$110,000.**

I was discouraged. I found myself asking God: “Why?” I lay my head down to sleep.

My eyes flew open. I immediately looked at my clock in anticipation of what was to come... 2:15 a.m. **I knew God had called me to a meeting.**

In the darkness... a quiet came upon me and a still, small voice whispered: **Trust Me.**

I cannot describe the sensation that came over me. I knew His voice, like a familiar parent calling my name. I lay awake all night waiting for Him to speak again. Another message never came. His message was clear and singular.

The next day, I walked into the board room. The board president began his devotional. He said that over the past week, he could not shake the message of Psalms 20. Specifically, the verses that he felt called to share were these:

Psalms 20: 7-9

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but **we trust in the name of the Lord our God.** They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. O Lord, may He answer us when we call.

He then went on to say: The Lord has pressed upon my heart to Trust Him... we need to simply **Trust Him.**

Continued inside...

Cover article continued...

This story shows the character of our God. A God who continually shows up. A God who is willing to come to us in the night to confirm His goodness, cast off our doubts, and show the mighty power of His strength. He is so very patient, merciful, and kind.

This, my friends, is our God. This is who He is. He loves us and answers us when we call.

Knowing this to be true, I am honored to share that **by God's provision through each one of you AND through the supernatural leading of a living and present God, the Agape board of directors unanimously decided to Trust Him and move forward with the Agape Campus Expansion this July of 2023!**

The physical campus expansion will represent our most recent altar. We will continue to build altars, seen and unseen, every

single day. We will never stop... until we breathe our last. **All who stand witness will see that, once again, something BIG has happened.** As the flames begin to rise from the altars, may our lives, our work, and this ministry be a fragrant aroma to the One we worship with the works of our hands.

So, let us daily offer up the aroma of Hope and remember that Hope has a name... its name is **Jesus!**



My Agape Story: Matrika & Kamal

Around two years ago, Matrika and Kamal came to Agape Pregnancy Resource Center expecting their first child.

They walked into Agape excited to learn! They had all kinds of questions about how to raise and care for a baby, how to love and set boundaries for their child, and how they could earn baby supplies through our program.

One of the unexpected benefits of coming to Agape was their ability to learn English in a classroom. Matrika shared how her Agape ELL class benefited her life: "Even my team leader at Broadlawns said that my English has improved since coming to Agape!" says Matrika.

Matrika and Kamal have told so many people about Agape because of the help they received. "We tell everybody to come to Agape! We have been helped so much," says Kamal.

Matrika and Kamal want to express a special word of thanks to every Agape supporter: "Thank you for helping us learn, grow, and improve in being the best parents we can be! Thank you for helping us and so many other families!"



Karla, Agape's ELL teacher, and Matrika learning English!



Matrika, Kamal & their son

Since 1985, Agape has served Des Moines and the surrounding areas by offering education and quality services to help our clients make informed decisions.



 Scan to donate online.

Donations can also be mailed to:

2550 Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy.
Des Moines, IA 50310
www.agapedsm.com/give

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HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday

9:00am-4:00pm

Thursdays

9:00am-7:00pm

Closed Friday-Sunday

Indianola Clinic

(Expanded hours starting July 11)
Tuesdays 2:00-4:00pm

Services offered at no charge:

- Pregnancy Tests
- Ultrasounds
- STD Tests
- Parenting Classes
- Case Management
- Telehealth
- Group Classes
- Tiny Hands Boutique
- Helping Hands Hygiene Pantry
- Post Abortive Healing

Ways to get involved:

- Donate
- Baby Shower/Hygiene Drive
- Volunteer for a Service Project
- Donate to the Endowment Fund

Did You Know?

Agape can work with clients for up to five years. We believe that learning parenting skills takes time, and the best place to learn is through the Christ-centered programming at Agape!

Donor Spotlight: Arlyn & Sue

"As plain people, we do not get involved with partisan politics, but we do feel a responsibility to be 'salt' on this earth, as Jesus taught. What Agape is doing seems like a much better alternative to political action, which typically tries to coerce people into doing what we think is best or prevents them from doing what we think is wrong. This does not seem to be the way that Jesus chose to operate in the world, and we want to follow His example as faithfully as possible.

God has blessed our farm business with extra this year, and



Arlyn, Sue & family

we just want to be faithful stewards. Someday we will give an account for every dollar that passed through our hands, and we believe that supporting Agape's work will make it possible to 'give an account with joy.'"

Board of Directors Corner: Gerry Meiners

Gerry Meiners joined the Agape Board of Directors in 2006 and has served faithfully ever since. He will be retiring from the board in December 2023.

Here are some final thoughts from Gerry as he concludes his time of leadership:

"Over my time of service, I have been reminded of Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a hope and a future.

I have seen firsthand how the ministry of Agape has grown during my time on the board, and it can only be by the grace of God alone.

Over the years, God has provided richly to Agape by bringing key people to grow and serve through



Gerry Meiners

every season and every decade, including our executive directors, staff, volunteers, board members, and supporters. I have both learned and grown in my respect for what an important role Agape plays in our community. Being a part of Agape has strengthened my personal faith, especially working closely with the board and Executive Director.

My greatest hope for Agape's future is that it will continue to have an eternal impact of reaching more people with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

We are so thankful for Gerry's service and legacy as part of the ministry and mission of Agape Pregnancy Resource Center.

Gerry, may your life be long and your legacy be longer as you continue to make Jesus famous in all that you say and do! We love you!

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PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

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LET

Hope
RISE

AGAPE FUNDRAISING BANQUET 2023

TUESDAY

September 26, 2023

5:30 PM | Reception

6:00 PM | Dinner

FEATURING: PASTOR MIKE HOUSHOLDER

Sheraton West 1800 50th St., West Des Moines, IA 50266

Save the Date

Please join us for a night of celebration! We will be featuring amazing client stories, special updates from our Executive Director, and hear from our honored guest speaker, Pastor Mike Housholder.

We are excited to share videos of the campus expansion progress and some amazing new ways we are meeting our growing number of clients every day. We will share how God is moving us for future growth, ministry, and opportunities in the year to come!

You will not want to miss this special night! Mark your calendars today!