



would like to go to Africa and teach at Agape Girls Home in Kenya, Africa. There are many homeless kids on the street there and I want to help them. A leather sandal would get my feet anywhere I needed to go. I love to help people and feel this is the way I want to go. I want to make a difference in many kids' lives, not just here, but in Africa too. I would be grateful and happy to be in that position and I am saying "Here am I, send me." A leather sandal is what I want to be.

How much we can all learn from these young girls about what is really important in life! They touch us with their sweet spirits and hearts to serve the Lord.

Shortly after New Year's we will be leaving on another extended road trip. Please keep us in your prayers. We need the Lord's protection as we travel and His leading and guiding in the meetings we will have and for the conference we will attend.

We will spend a few days in Palm Springs with Ruth and David Seifert, Esther's sister and brother-in-law. We are looking forward to being with them and to relaxing, probably playing some games, and just hanging out before we really begin our travels.

From Ruth and David's, we will head to Glendale, AZ, just outside of Phoenix, to participate in the first International Wholistic Missions Conference. The conference is being held at Christ's Church of the Valley. We will not only be attending the conference, but be putting on a workshop as well.

During the workshop, we will be sharing what the Lord is doing in and through Agape. The attendees will learn the details of what we do, how we do it, and why we do it, with the goal that what we share might be of benefit to their ministries and to gaining a better understanding of ministry to street children. Our focus will be on how we go about reintegrating children back into their families and rural communities.

We will have the pleasure of staying with Darla and Paul Calhoun while we are at the Conference. It will be great fun to be with them. We are grateful to them for their willingness to put us up (and to put up with us!)

After the Conference, we will be driving to Texas to visit a number of people and to spend time with Steve and Betty Bishop. It will be our first time to be with them since we were in Africa. It will be great to catch up with them and to discuss plans for their ministry at The Farm when, the Lord willing, we all return to Kenya in April.

Returning to Africa for all of our missionary team is something we need you to be praying about. The Kenyan elections are scheduled to take place on March 4. We are praying Kenya will remain calm and peaceful during the entire election process, unlike the last elections when there was so much violence, looting, and killing. We are also praying there will not be a run-off which could drag things on into April. We are anxious to get back.

Because there was so much violence during the last elections, we have decided to essentially close Agape down for the four or five weeks leading up to and following the election. Our missionaries will all be out of the country. We have asked our staff to be with their families in their rural villages. The children we are caring for will either go to a family member or will stay with one of our staff families. This is the way we can best provide for everyone's safety and protection. Our guards will remain on our campus to protect Agape's facilities and equipment.

It is also the best way for us to insure we will be available to help and to minister to the children and the people of Kenya as may be needed after the election.

We are excited about all that the Lord has in store for the New Year. Thank you for being our partners in ministry with your prayers, your words of encouragement, and your faithful financial support. You bless us.

Happy New Year,

Blake & Esther



Bringing hope to children at risk

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