



# The Agape Pages

August 2012

## Happy 1-Year Anniversary in Kenya! Greetings in the name of our Savior, Jesus!

Where has the past year gone??? Personally, I find it hard to believe that one year ago we packed our bags and moved from North Carolina to the other side of the world to serve as missionaries with Agape Children's Ministry in Kisumu, Kenya. And what a year it has been! Should I be surprised by the joy God has placed into my heart by serving here? By no means (to borrow a line from the Apostle Paul)! But, Tammy and I both remain so encouraged by the peace and happiness our family has found in this small city in East Africa. As you would imagine, we've had our hard days, we've made a boatload of mistakes, and we miss our friends and family in the U.S. . . but God has not only sustained us in Kisumu, He has given us a wonderful joy as a family as we minister to the children and staff of Agape Children's Ministry. God has answered one of our biggest prayers in moving to Kenya a year ago – Kisumu has become our home!

Within the first few days of our arrival in Kisumu, I was



Camping out in the Living Room!

overwhelmed by how quickly our family grew accustomed to life in Kenya. Even today, I'm convinced that our family's smooth transition into life here came as a result of

each of your prayers! Thank you so much for faithfully praying for the Page Family!!! We honestly could not be here without you! I also want to thank the churches that have diligently supported us both financially and in prayer throughout the past year: Southside Church (Clayton, NC), Grace Community Church (Rincon, GA), Community Bible Church (Beaufort, SC), Husdon UMC (Hudson, NC), Horne UMC (Clayton, NC), Springfield UMC (Springfield, GA) and Hocutt Baptist Church (Clayton, NC). And of course, we owe a big THANK YOU to each of you who have supported our family financially over the past few years - both in preparation to move to Kenya and now

that we are serving full-time here with Agape. We could not be serving here without you!!!

I wrote last month that Agape hired its first two full-time counselors. From day one, this team has been very busy! Over the past few weeks, we have experienced a rash of severe behavioral issues with a handful of our Agape boys, and the inclusion of these counselors on the Agape Team has been an incredible gift. It is amazing to see how the Lord provides and positions our staff members to meet the emerging needs of our Agape boys!



Janice and Connor

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, the Agape boys finish up their second school term of the year and have a three-week break before starting back to school at the beginning of September. Agape uses school breaks as an opportunity to reintegrate some of our boys with their families in the rural parts of Kenya. For August break, we're planning on reintegrating 21 of our boys; please be praying for these young men as they prepare to move back with their families!

After 2 ½ months of studying the book of Romans daily with my staff, we finally finished in the middle of July. I'll start with a new study at the beginning of the next school term in September. I also had another opportunity to teach at a local Kenyan church. One of my staff members, Maurice, pastors a small church about an hour outside of Kisumu, and he asked that I teach two different sessions with his congregation. As I wrote last month, Kenyans are a lot tougher than Americans; the same holds true with Sunday services! The first service ran from 11 AM to 1 PM; the church then provided lunch for the whole congregation; the second service ran from 3 PM to 4:30 PM. It's an unexplainable blessing to worship with Africans; the spirit and emotion of Kenya's worshipping is something that all believers should long to experience!

*Continued:*

Tammy and I were so blessed by the whole experience but were totally exhausted! We're hoping that the next time I teach we'll bring the kids (but will probably only stay for the first service!).

Tammy and the kids remain busy with homeschooling; yep, that's right, no summer break! We got a late start with school because of our move to Kenya, we took the month of December off, and we took the month of April off when the Perry's visited. Needless to say, we're a little behind! Tammy is a great teacher and will have everyone caught up in a month or two. Connor has gotten involved visiting and caring for the babies at New Life Baby Home, an orphanage near our house. She goes there once or twice a week to help feed and love on the babies (no diaper changing, yet!). Last night, Connor was just explaining to our whole family the difference between "spit-up" and "throw-up." Seth also celebrated his sixth birthday in July with a pool party and a Millennium Falcon birthday cake; I still can't believe that Seth is 6-years old!!!

Thanks again to all of you for continuing to pray and support our family serving! We couldn't be serving here in Kenya without you!!!

Kwaheri (Goodbye)!

God Bless,

The Pages

Chris, Tammy, Sutton, Connor, Seth, & Lyla

<http://theagapepages.blogspot.com>

*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6*



Lyla!



Connor at New Life Baby Home.



Happy Birthday Seth!



Seth opening gifts.



**Bringing hope to children at risk**

Agape Children's Ministry  
 PO Box 5062 Modesto, CA 95352  
 Local: 209.543.9255  
 Toll Free: 888.572.4273  
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