Girls and Boys: Reaching the Promised Land

By: Pam Patterson

During my prayer time God showed me that when He heard the cries of the Israelites and He sent Moses, He didn’t send Moses to behaviorally modify them, give them new coping skills, or medicate them. He sent Moses to deliver them from their bondage into freedom so that they could reach their promised land. This really spoke to me because this is our goal at Agape House. We don’t want to just medicate, give coping skills or change behaviors; our goal is to help them get deliverance, find freedom, and reach their destiny/promised land.

Deliverance starts when the person truly decides they want something different and will take those steps. This happens at Agape when someone wanting help meets with me and says, “Yes, I want help; yes, I want to come to Agape House; and, Yes, I’m open to hear about Christ.” This is the first step of leaving Egypt and being delivered from bondage. The second step is learning about God’s love, their identity in Him, recognizing the lies and replacing them with truth. This is where they start to find freedom from whatever stronghold has brought them to Agape House. As they learn to seek Him and trust Him, God starts to turn their ashes into beauty and leads them down the path He has for them, their promised land.

I wish I could say this is an easy, quick process, but it isn’t. Just like the Israelites wanted to run back to Egypt (slavery) many times, these girls want to run back to their Egypt. It is all they know. Just like it took the Israelites 40 years to reach their promised land, it can take these girls time to reach their promised land; sometimes a lifetime. The good news is, as long as they have accepted Christ, He promises to complete the work that He has begun in them. Sometimes that is on this side of Heaven and other times it is when they enter the pearly gates and He makes all things new, and there is no more pain and no more sorrow.

Another Year Brings Change…

Always Walking Amazed with God!

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! It sure has been an exciting 20 years in the ministry. As time passes, change is inevitable. We have seen God move mightily in this ministry and this coming year is no exception.

We would like to send a sincere note of thanks to those who have transitioned out of Agape House at the end of 2017-2018 school year. The Director and Lead Teacher of the school, Dee Jones, has retired. Her heart for the girls has been a tremendous gift and she will be greatly missed. Our Lead Counselor, Christa Dame, has opened her own practice in Lake Geneva. What an accomplishment for her! She will continue consulting for Agape House, for that we are thankful. House mom, Angel Kania, is heading to Nevada. Her motherly love over the girls was such a blessing!

With that being shared, exciting changes are on the horizon for the Agape House! We wish to welcome two new teachers to our staff: Sherry Gettig will be our new girls Lead Teacher. Sherry has a heart for the hurting and is eager to
Home and School for Boys? Yes, it is true. We are excited to tell you that God has opened the doors wide for us to open a home and school for boys! In January of this year, I was praying and asking God for direction with the ministry. I was feeling like God was calling us to expand, and then we received two unexpected donations—this confirmed for me the call to expand. In prayer, God showed me a vision of a maze. He told me to slow down and enjoy the process, to keep trusting Him to lead us and guide us, and to quit stressing over the end result. This led us to the theme for 2018, ‘Walking AMAZED with God’. The journey has been incredible, allowing Him to lead us to our current destiny: a home and school for boys.

In April, Pastor Mike and Ruth Mehring from Lighthouse Church called and asked to meet with me. We had been in contact with them about a church building, Full Gospel Church, they were no longer using. It is around the corner from our home and school for girls and asked them to consider selling it to Agape House. When I met with them, they handed me the keys and said, “the building is yours, we are donating it to Agape House.” I was utterly shocked and amazed. This 6,000 square foot building is perfect for a home and school for boys, and it includes space for a live-in apartment for house staff. In July we received permission from the Village of Walworth to move forward. We would like to be open before the end of the month of September this year.

God has already provided the building, a male teacher, male intern and male staff person. We have also received multiple calls from boys wanting to enter the program. This is what we need to complete set up for the school and home:

Our goal is to raise $100,000 to be used as follows:

- $50,000 for renovations to bring the building up to code and to fit our needs
- $10,000 to furnish the school
- $10,000 to furnish the home
- $30,000 for start-up operating costs

Will you please pray about how you can help meet the need for finances or volunteers to finish the project?

Thank you for your prayers and support; we are so excited about offering the same hope and healing to hurting boys that we have been able to offer girls for the past 20 years! We are looking forward to continuing to remain AMAZED as we trust God each step of the way!

“Come all you who are weary and heavily burdened and I will give you rest.”

Jesus Christ, Matthew 11:28
Donor Recognition

We would like to highlight some of the recent donors who have supported this ministry through a Memorial Fund or a Foundation this fiscal year to date.

In Memory of Nancy Spaulding

Agape House was one of the charities selected by Peter Spaulding and his family for people to remember Nancy. Nancy had a big heart for this ministry, and was supportive in a variety of ways over the years. One of the unique donations she gave annually were calendars she collected from various organizations. It was always such a blessing to pass the collection around to the girls and staff to see who was drawn to which one, which usually depended on the picture on the cover.

Foundations are non-governmental entities established as a nonprofit corporation or a charitable trust, with a principal purpose of making grants to unrelated organizations for specific charitable purposes. We are grateful to the following foundations who have supported our ministry this past year: Alliant Energy, Baird Family, Benne-Fit Valley, Keeley Family, Kunes Family, NKC, O’Neill and Steivang Family. The forethought and compassion from these foundations is obvious as we meet with each one of them when they come to visit Agape House and learn about our ministry.

New Year Brings Changes (cont’d from page 1)

Thanks to, The Home Depot for replacing all the windows in the school, home, and counseling center buildings! The efficiency of the new windows will help lower our energy bills.

Big Foot High School for donating laptop computers for the school. Also, special thanks to Cheryl and Dan Merkes who volunteer to get them ready for the year and then teach computer, finance, and health class.

Thanks to the Kohl’s Cares Fieldtrip Grant we were able to treat our girls on various outings like the Milwaukee Art Museum.

LION’S CLUB OF WILLIAMS BAY invited Agape House to participate in their corn and brat event. We enjoyed painting the faces of the boys and girls, raised some funds for Agape House. Thanks to the Lion’s Club for providing this opportunity.

Kym, Tina, and others working diligently to be ready for school year.

Meet the Directors (left to right)

Kym Bachtell, Director of School
Pam Patterson, Executive Director
Bonilee Maclay, Director of Counseling
Jan Baker, Administrative Director
Pauline Loayza, Director of Home

Kym Bachtell has accepted the position as the Director of the School. This is a new position to focus on the unique needs each student has to be academically successful. Bonilee Maclay will now lead the counseling staff as the Director of Counseling. Her dedication to Biblical Counseling brings forth authentic healing to the students and families. Finally, we are so pleased to have Brooke Nedland returning as a house RA. She was an RA a few years ago and blessed our angels with her compassionate heart.

Our program focus will continue to be whole-ness and healing through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We will foster healing to our students through academics, Biblical Counseling, life groups, healthy nutrition and regular exercise. As we approach the new school year, meeting the needs of each student as an individual will be our priority. Each student comes to Agape House with a one of kind story. Likewise, nurturing their personal growth will be just as unique in their journey here at Agape House. We are so thrilled to invite you to partner with us however the Lord leads you to this school year. A year already full of change, growth, love and redemption! Thank you for partaking in this ever-evolving story of the faithfulness of our great God!

Lion’s Club International

Pauline Loayza, Director of Home

ECFA Accredited

Agape House applied for accreditation with ECFA earlier this year, and have been successfully acknowledged.

“For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.”

~ 2 Corinthians 8:21
Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to help earn cash for our school. Each one is worth 10¢ for our school! Just look for the pink Box Tops on hundreds of products. All you have to do is clip them and drop them in one of the collection jars located at the Home, School, Counseling Center and Transitional Housing. Or if you live out of town just save them up for a couple months and mail to the school.

This school year, our goal is to earn $1,000! That money will be used to pay for art, music, and computers for the school as those items are not in the regular budget. A list of participating products can be found at www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products.

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 27th, 2019
Agape’s 5K Run, Walk, or Stroll
A Family & Community Event.

AGAPE CHRISTMAS
OPEN HOUSE &
HOLIDAY GIFT BAZAAR
Sunday, December 2, 2018
1:00pm—4:00pm
215 S. Main Street, Walworth, WI
Call (262)275-6466 for more information

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Please join us for our 21st Annual Information Night.

Walking AMAZED with God
Thursday, October 25, 2018
GENEVA NATIONAL CLUB HOUSE
1221 Geneva National South
Lake Geneva, WI 53148
5:00pm Hors d’oeuvres, cocktails, & silent auction.
6:30pm Dinner and Speakers

“And they were all amazed at the greatness of God…”
Luke 9:43

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