



APRIL 2010

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Search Begins for New Location

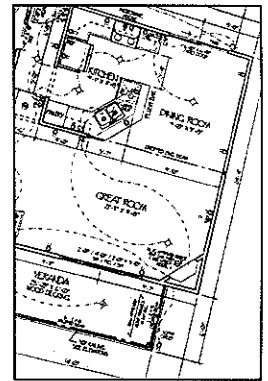
About 5 years ago this month, Amanda and I bought our current home in the Third Ward. During that time, Agape has held programs in several different locations including 2 staff homes, 2 different churches, our discipleship duplex, and now a school.

The Lord has been good and provided everything we've needed, but Agape now needs more space and greater identity within the neighborhood. We want to be good stewards of the resources God has given us, and we invite your help in the process. Agape needs space for our programs including Bible studies, life skill workshops, after school tutoring and activities, as well as office space.

Additionally, we would like to buy residential property to house our Gateway Program instead of renting. If you know someone willing to donate property or make a great deal with Agape, please write us at info@agapedevelopment.org.

Specifics:

- 1) Location: in 77021
- 2) Terms: prefer lease, but open to buy
- 3) Type: residential, commercial, or vacant lots
- 4) Other Help: skilled and unskilled labor for renovations (volunteer or discounted)



Agape Board of Directors

- Rick Rodekohr *Chairman*
- Leia Carpenter *Treasurer*
- Donna Sims *Secretary*
- Del Blom
- Becky Larkin
- Chip Johnson
- Jason Mercer
- Douglas Roberts
- Alan Ytterberg

New Website Makes Debut

One of the many projects we've been working on over the past few weeks is our new website. We think it's more attractive, more functional, more versatile, and easier to navigate.

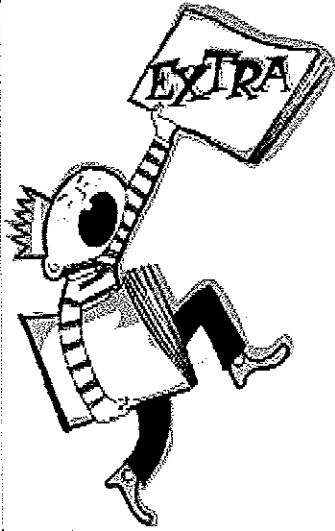
It's a quick way for you to find out how the young people we serve are transforming their lives and how God is at work in their transformation.

We'll also post schedules of upcoming events and offer ideas about how you can help us and join in our mission.

But we'd like hear what you think.

Just go to this link:
www.agapedevelopment.org





**Get Your
Newsletter by
e-mail**

We're in the process of making the switch to e-newsletters.

It'll help us get the word out faster, keep the clutter out of the mailbox at your house, and of course, save us a bunch on mailing and printing costs.

All you have to do to receive this newsletter via the web is to send your e-mail address to: info@agapedevelopment.org

And for the record, we won't publish your e-mail address, trade it to any lists, or clutter up your inbox with mass e-mails.

San Antonio Retreat Trip

Whenever life became hectic for Jesus and the disciples, they would set time apart to get in a boat, climb a mountain or pray in a garden.

Life in the inner-city carries a constant stress over the threat of violence, the challenge of survival, the despair of poverty, and the loneliness of broken relationships. Agape uses retreats to provide our neighbors the opportunity to hear God without distractions, and invariably they are great times. In March, several Agape members went with David and Melissa Hill to San Antonio for rest and recreation. The group enjoyed fellowship, fun and devotional time.

Over the weekend of April 30 – May 2, Agape will take a larger group back to Caro-

lina Creek Christian Camp in Huntsville, TX to reconnect and recommit ourselves to God.

This has always been a great trip for us because the environment removes the encumbrances of technology and noise, and we hear God more clearly. We need 4 volunteers to help with the retreat by driving and facilitating some small group discussions during the weekend. If you are interested, please contact us at discussions during the weekend. If you are interested, please contact us at: volunteer@agapedevelopment.org.



Second Baptist Students Volunteer at Bible Club



March 8th -12th, Agape hosted 10 students from Second Baptist School who came to volunteer. The students learned about urban ministry, community development and Agape's vision for the Third Ward through videos, book discussions and personal testimonies of the staff. We challenged the volunteers to make long-term investments of time and energy into any ministry if they truly desired lasting change.

After each training, the students facilitated a Backyard Bible Club held in a low-income apartment complex called Sir John.

They played games, told Bible stories, made crafts, and distributed packed lunches for the kids who came. the neighbors. and adults, I realize that there's not as much to fear."

Several students described their feelings of fear and uncertainty on the first day, but by the end of the week, everyone felt more confident with the neighbors. One young woman remarked, "When I didn't know anyone, everything looked very scary, but now that I know several kids and adults, I realize that there's not as much to fear." Neighborhood kids and the volunteer students began to learn each other's names and form bonds.

Everyone noticed the intense desire among the neighborhood kids for love, affection, and attention, and we talked about how these unmet desires lead to bad decisions and destructive behaviors. Several young women plan on volunteering again with Agape, building those long-term relationships.

We thank Second Baptist School for the great partnership in transforming the neighborhood. If you would like to hear more about Agape's vision, learn about community development or serve in the Third Ward, please contact us at volunteer@agapedevelopment.org

Some Younger Members of our Family and Neighborhood





Agape brings hope and transformation to the Third Ward through economic, emotional and spiritual empowerment.

Agape...

...derives power and direction Jesus Christ.

...listens to the community first.

...creates opportunity for individuals.

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A Word about Needs

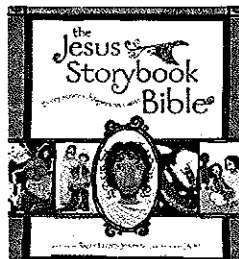
Agape works because of the partnerships with the neighborhood, with donors, with volunteers, with God. We talk about our needs because we fully expect that many will pray, some will serve, and others will give. For example, the success of Backyard Bible Club depends upon 1) prayer for the kids involved, 2) servants to lead the crafts and stories, and 3) gifts to purchase supplies. We invite you into praying, serving, and giving partnership with Agape, so together we can bring hope and transformation to Houston's Third Ward.

Kirk Craig
Executive Director & Co-Founder

All donations to Agape are tax deductible through our non-profit status as a 501(c)(3) corporation

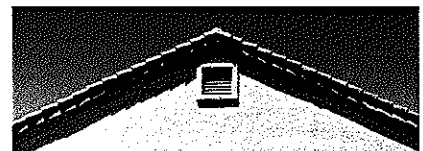
Backyard Bible Club

- Craft supplies for each week
- Extra volunteers for the summer
- Alternate location for rainy days
- Clear understanding of God's love for the kids
- *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (25 copies)



Gateway Residential Program

- Housing for 12 residents in 77021 (single family homes or apartments)
- Teachable residents in the program
- Mentor teams for the 2010-2011 year
- Life skills teachers (savings, nutrition, etc.)
- Updated 2-3 min video about the program
- Career guidance in various fields



Spiritual retreat April 30-May 2

- Transportation to and from Huntsville
- Dinner for 20 prior to departure on Friday
- Repentance and true change for the participants
- Extra counselors



Our Office Operations

- Space for lease or purchase in 77021
- As artist's rendering of a multi-use building
- A conference table
- Digital video projector
- Flat panel monitors (4)

