

OCTOBER 2023, ISSUE 5



THE AGAPE MONETA NEWSLETTER

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



“GOD IS NOT
UNJUST; HE WILL
NOT FORGET YOUR
WORK AND THE
LOVE YOU HAVE
SHOWN HIM AS YOU
HAVE HELPED HIS
PEOPLE AND
CONTINUE TO HELP
THEM.”

HEBREWS 6:10

**Welcome to the Agape SML monthly
newsletter!
We're glad you're here.**

***Thanks for subscribing to our newsletter,
where you can stay up-to-date on everything
happening at Agape Center SML!***

The Agape Center at Smith Mountain Lake provides mentoring, food, clothing, household goods and more to those in our community who need help through difficult times.

Over 300 volunteers serve an average of 900 families per month from Bedford & Franklin counties.



Mentor Bob Moore recently sat down with Agape client Melissa E., whose life was changed forever in a near-fatal car accident. This is her story.

Client Focus: Melissa E.

Melissa, when did you become a client of Agape?

A long time ago!

What happened in your life in which you needed Agape's services?

In 2009, my life changed in an instant! I had just left work and was driving my SUV with a heavy load of granite rock samples. My rear tire blew out which sent my SUV flying off the road. It flipped and rolled multiple times for more than 100 yards. A neighbor heard the accident and called it in; he also came to my rescue. The rescuers flew me by helicopter to the hospital.

What was the extent of your injuries?

I was in a coma for 10 weeks. My right arm was amputated. I was right-handed and during

recovery had to learn how to become left-handed. There was a large laceration on my head and I lost multiple teeth. My eye came out of its socket and I couldn't walk. As a result, I was in multiple hospitals for a year. Currently, I am still in pain most days.

What was your recovery like?

I was able to get around and rode in a wheelchair for a year. It took me 5 years to relearn how to walk again and I have gone through 4 different walking devices.

Do you remember what it was like being in a coma?

During this time, I was in a garden; I love flowers. I could feel Jesus's presence and knew He was there; It was so peaceful.



Client Focus, Cont.

You mentioned to me that there were angels involved in this accident and recovery?

If the gentleman hadn't called the accident into 911 and come to my rescue, I would have bled out. I lost 4 pints of blood. I thanked him with a bible with his name engraved on it. He is an angel!

The doctor that worked on my eye was a customer of mine. He saved my eye. He is an angel!

When I was in Bedford Beverly Hospital, I wound up on the same floor that my mom was working on as a nurse. We did not have the best relationship before the accident. But she did all she could for me in the hospital and I am now living with her. We now have a wonderful, close relationship. She is an angel!

I notice that you laugh a bit when you talk about your ordeal. How come?

Laughter has kept me going. My mom and I have laughed all the way through it.

How are you doing spiritually?

I had been saved before the accident and was really not a practicing Christian. But now I faithfully go to Calvary Baptist Church. Every Sunday the pastor and his wife pick me up for church and bring me home. They are angels!

What would you like our readers to know?

Jesus is always there for them, no matter the situation. All you must do is call out to Him when you are in need! You can depend on him. He saved my life and gave me the strength to recover. He also gave me a new and beautiful relationship with my mother. I have every reason to be thankful and grateful to Him!.

"FOR I
KNOW THE
PLANS I
HAVE FOR
YOU,'
DECLARES
THE LORD,
'PLANS TO
PROSPER
YOU AND
NOT TO
HARM YOU,
PLANS TO
GIVE YOU A
HOPE AND A
FUTURE. '"

Jeremiah 29:11



Agape Center SML
invites you to feed a family for
THANKSGIVING

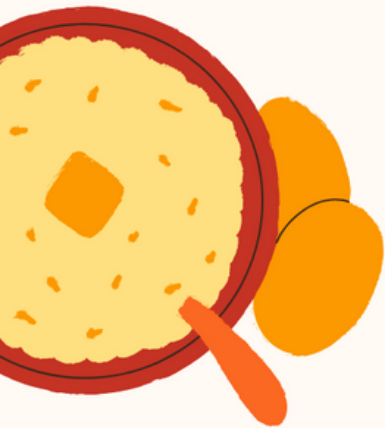
Give thanks and make a difference by helping 800 families, from Bedford to Rocky Mount, enjoy Thanksgiving dinner!

Each family will receive a Walmart gift card that is limited to the purchase of 'turkey/ham/produce'.

Thanksgiving Dinner 2023
\$25 per family

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever." Chronicles 16:34

Donate



A Sweet Smelling Story

According to volunteer Karen F, a client recently came to Agape requesting deodorant. The client was about to pick a birthday basket for that reason alone, but volunteer Eileen said, “No, please pick something you would like.” Eileen came back with the one deodorant Agape had left in stock to give to the client. So Karen decided to purchase deodorants for men and women to keep in the Gift Shop. In addition, Judy (Food Pantry volunteer) received an order which included 50 men’s and womens’ deodorants. All in God’s timing!



Hopeless to Hopeful: Tasha’s Testimony



I’ve been coming to Agape for over 12 years. I saw a flyer for the “Getting Ahead” class and submitted my application. I attended and graduated from the GA class and went from hopeless to hopeful. My husband was paralyzed for a little over a year and a half. With prayer and hard work, he is now walking with a cane. I didn’t have a driver’s license for 18 years, and the “GA” class taught me how to budget amongst other things; I now have my driver’s license. All the volunteers have touched me and my family in a positive way. I thank God every day for the volunteers at Agape and the amazing things He has done in my life.



An Agape Miracle



Do you believe in miracles? At Agape, we believe what Jesus tells us in Matthew 19:26...

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."



Ron M. began volunteering in the Food Pantry in 2014. In December 2018, he was planning to have neck surgery. However, when the doctor ordered an x-ray of his chest, they found a mass on his lung. It was determined to be stage 4 lung cancer. Ron went through months of chemo and radiation. He tried to come back to Agape about one year ago, but struggled. After many prayers, as of one month ago, he is cancer free! Praise God! He and his wife Susie are both back helping at Agape. Susie shared, "We have always felt so much love from all the volunteers. It's like coming back HOME!"