



Happy Easter!!

When clients come to Agape for their monthly appointment, they meet with a mentor. Every mentor talks individually about the client's physical and spiritual needs. *During these conversations, at least 35 clients accepted Christ in the first quarter of this year!* What a special Easter it will be for them and for us!



19th Annual Golf Tourney

Only a few spots left!

Saturday May 20, 2023

Copper Cove Golf Club, Hardy, VA

Registration / Lunch Begins at 11:30AM

Shotgun Start at 1:00 PM

\$75 per golfer / \$300.00 per Foursome

For general questions, contact Teresa McCain at tgmccain@gmail.com



SML GIVES 2023 - A BIG SUCCESS!

When Karen Jones, Interim Director, was asked about the results of SML Gives, she said: "I want to thank everyone so much for their heartfelt donations made to Agape through the fundraising event last week. Together we raised over **\$21,000!** This will enable us to purchase vital items for our clients that do not often get donated... like window air conditioners, fans, heaters, toasters, pots and pans, and electric can openers. Your blessing will provide them with warmth in the winter, cool relief from the blistering heat, and the ability to painlessly open cans of food. On their behalf, I thank you for your generosity.

SML Gives is our annual drive for individual donations. Over the last six years, this event has allowed us to make facility improvements, provide safety features for our volunteers, and now we will use this year's funds to 'attend to the felt needs of man ... in a manner that gives God the glory.' We'll be back next March, but please continue to follow our activities through our newsletter. I truly appreciate your support!"

CLIENT FOCUS

Sara's Miracle



Sara, when did you first become a client of Agape?

About five years ago. I needed support because I was a single mom and on disability; I had a kidney transplant when I was four, resulting in a life that has been filled with many doctor visits and hospital stays.

It was during that time you heard about Agape's "Getting Ahead" class?

Yes, I applied and I was accepted. I attended for a few weeks, but I was not able to complete the class because I became sick and was in the hospital for at least a month.

But you got better and were able to complete the "Getting Ahead" class?

I did not complete that session because of the illness. When I got better, I was able to take the "Getting Ahead" class again and graduated! I learned a great deal about money management, where your money goes and how to spend your time wisely. I also thought it was great how they put an emphasis on God. *Has your situation improved?*

Using the financial management tools from the class, I became debt free. I was able to get many purchases paid off and I stopped over-drafting my account. I also enrolled in Liberty University's Early Childhood Education program. I plan on graduating by the end of this year with an Associate's degree.

Can you tell us a little bit about your child?

Her name is Kay and she's 12. We had an interview last week at the SLMCA; we are hoping for a scholarship. I tell my daughter you know God will make a way and usually by some miracle something will happen. He always comes through for us regardless of our situation.

Agape-Moneta Newsletter:- April 2023 - Spring is in the Air!

What role do you believe God played in your improved situation?

Oh goodness! I mean everything is through Him! My whole life just in the past year has turned completely around. I'm still kind of shocked and I pinch myself at times. Eastlake Church has been huge in both my life and my daughter's life. The connections that we've made are amazing. It's a community place that makes you feel loved and makes you want to do better.

You seem to have a very strong connection to God. Where does that come from?

When I went to the hospital, I had a kidney infection. The doctor said that it was almost sepsis and they noticed I had a gallstone stuck so they operated. The surgeon actually punctured my liver and pancreas. This caused internal bleeding and organ failure. I was on a feeding tube, dialysis, oxygen, ... you name it! I had 40 plus pounds of fluid around my heart and around my lungs! *The doctors said that I wasn't going to make it!* I was so ill that they were planning my funeral!

The doctors sedated me. I believe I was asleep for two or three days. When they woke me up, everything suddenly started working again. Even the doctors said that it was a miracle; they can't explain it! While knowing how close I was to death, it really made me feel guilty for a long time like why did God spare me and not other people. I went to church and really dove into the word. I realized that I'm here for a reason and that is why he spared me. I wake up every day and I ask how I can serve Him and how I could be a better person and who can I help? Who can I lead to Him? I am just excited to find out what God has in store for me.

So are we at Agape! Thank you for sharing your story, Sara!

WHY WE VOLUNTEER



Put Me First

"He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

– 2 Corinthians 1:4 (HCSB)

Harry Martin (pictured on the right) of **Agape and Radford Baptist Church** in Moneta, VA is no stranger to affliction. He once had a back injury so severe, it was nearly impossible to walk. It became so intense, he believed a wheelchair would be his fate. By God's grace, that would not be so. The Lord miraculously relieved Harry's pain and provided him with the ability to walk unassisted.

Harry later encountered another challenging season when his wife suffered a major heart attack. COVID restrictions at the hospital prevented Harry from staying by her side, and he could only speak with and pray for his bride on the phone. After a six-week battle, the Lord took Harry's wife to her eternal home.

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For months, Harry grieved and received comfort only the Lord could provide. Eventually, Harry felt God calling him to serve as a Disaster Relief chaplain. He asked God, "How can I serve You now? My wife is gone!" God gave him a specific answer: "Trust Me. Put me first!"

Harry did just that! He focused on the Lord and completed the necessary training to deploy as an assistant chaplain.

When Hurricane Ian struck the coast of Florida in 2022, his training was put to use. The devastation sent SBCV Disaster Relief volunteers to Venice, FL, and Harry was part of the team to help families rebuild.

"God told me, 'I will always give you the strength to do what I want you to do.'" Harry said, "I knew God had a specific person for me to talk to."

The team found a home that needed a temporary roof and other necessities. The homeowner, Bill (on left), shared with the volunteers that his wife and two pets had died within the previous 12 months and that the hurricane had made his home uninhabitable.

At that moment, Harry knew his purpose. He could sense that Bill was completely overwhelmed and in utter despair. Bill opened up about his affliction. Harry listened for a long time and shared, "I know how you are feeling. I lost my wife two years ago."

Bill locked eyes with Harry and said, "You really understand, don't you? I can see it in your eyes." Harry shared the simple truth of the Gospel, focusing primarily on the free gift of God in Jesus from Romans 6:23. Harry knew the Holy Spirit was talking through him.

Harry asked, "Bill, would you like to know for sure that you are going to heaven?" Bill said he would and prayed to receive Jesus. He let out a deep breath, dropped his head, stood up, pointed toward heaven, and exclaimed, "Well, praise God!"

Bill left the room to boldly tell the volunteers and neighbors what had happened. It was evident for anyone to see that he was a new man. God comforted Harry at that moment, "See, you can serve without your wife." Not only did God work in Bill's life that day, but He worked in Harry's life, too.

Note: When Harry is not busy conducting Disaster Relief, he is a valued volunteer at Agape in USDA and as a mentor

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