

Spring

2007

**Agape**  
International

LOVE IN ACTION

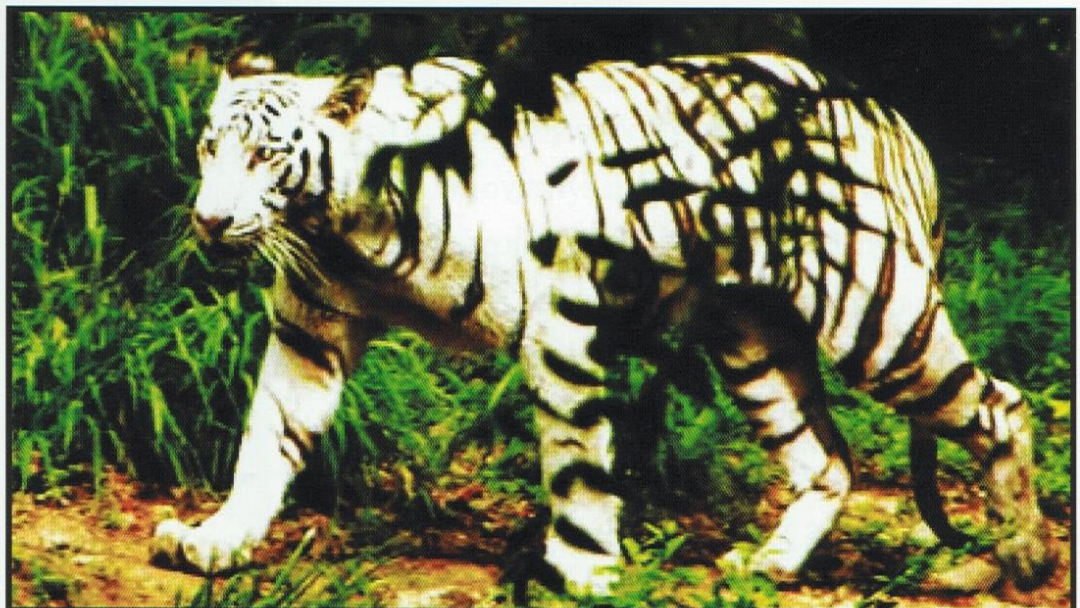
# AGAPE FAMILY

## Spring in India: A Trip to the Zoo

One of the things that we like to do, just like any other family, is introduce the kids to new experiences. Here are some photos and a few written comments from the kids on their zoo trip last spring. You will note that the kids are dressed up and the girls are wearing flowers in their hair – this is common procedure for a big day!



The kids ride the “zoo express”!



The Hyderabad Zoo’s famous white tiger.

# AGAPE FAMILY

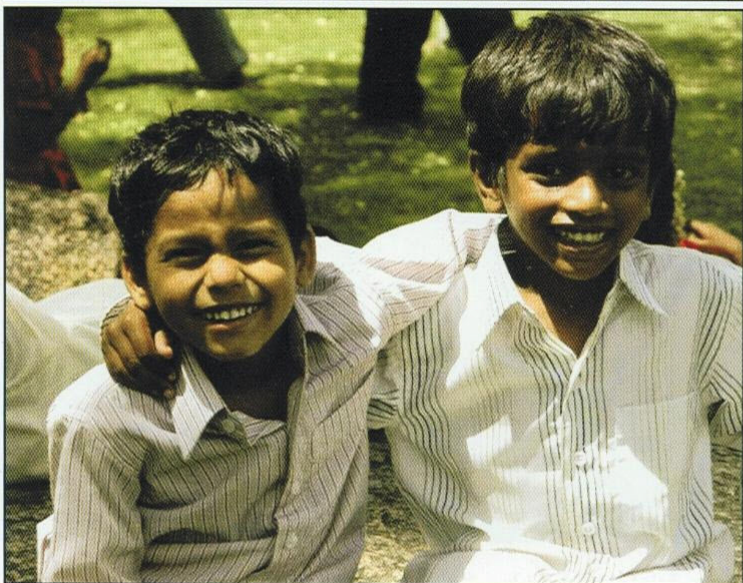
## Spring in India: A Trip to the Zoo



Left: Mohan, an Agape teacher, plays with the kids at the zoo.



Above: On our way in the rented bus (we happily accept donations to fund special trips such as this one!)



Left: Ravi and Ashraf

Sumalatha writes:

“We went by bus to Zoo Park. I have seen High Court on the way. We have seen different animals. We saw monkeys, crocodiles, fishes, deer, tiger, lion, elephants, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, different kinds of birds & parrots, peacocks, pigeons, ducks, cranes, & cheetah. I was very happy. I enjoyed a lot. We came back to the hostel by bus.”



# AGAPE FAMILY

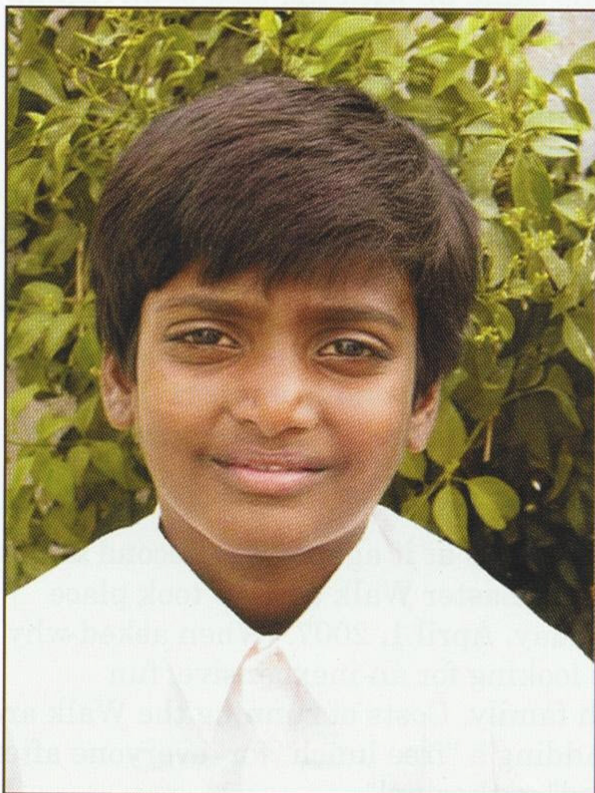
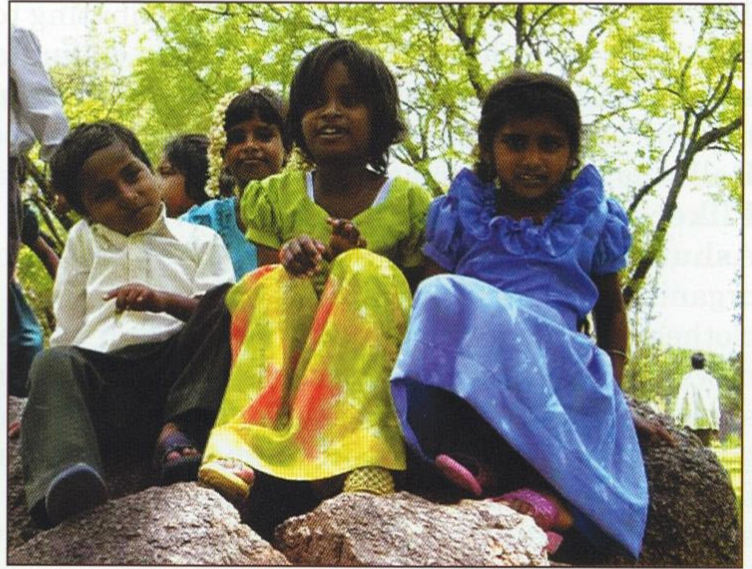
## Spring in India: A Trip to the Zoo

Right: Kids play in the park during lunch (Anil, Swathi and Swarna Bharathi).



Above: Sai Kumari, Laxmi, Mangamma and Shabana

Right: The boys waiting for the bus.



Bhanu Prakash writes:

“We went to Zoo on Easter Sunday. We saw tortoise, monkey, chimpanzee & orangutan. As we move further, we saw tiger, peacock & squirrels. We got into the train and saw more animals like elephants and deer. After lunch, we saw lion. It was sleeping. We woke him up by making a lot of noise.

On our way back, we had ice cream & had lot of fun. We were very happy to go to Zoo.”

# HERE IN THE US

## Extraordinary Agape Supporters

The list is so long of those who are contributing to Agape in extraordinary ways. We have those who are volunteering their time to do fun tasks like stuff envelopes and organize and sort donations— this list includes **Joanne Thompson** who gave us a day a week throughout most of 2006 and also organizes the annual Agape silent auction at the Fall Dinner, **Willo Bell** who has spent many days in my basement in front of a computer screen, **Brittany Filker**, a local Sudbury high school student who has helped do data entry, and **Sree Ashutosh** who has contributed in many and assorted ways including administrative help, organizing an Agape presence at a recent Telegu Association of Boston event, sorting clothes, etc. Volunteer **Shelly Thompson** does all the graphics work for the Agape newsletter and many of our cards and invites. **Anjali and Ram Chuttani** have helped spread the word to many of their friends and family and brought two tables worth of new guests to our last fundraising dinner. **Elayne Brigham** sent out letters to raise donations for Agape and helped to introduce us to local newspapers (she is a former reporter). Elayne and her husband Rick also introduced Agape to two churches on the Cape who invited Lynne to speak this past fall.

It is not possible to list all those who are making extraordinary commitments, but for the next couple of newsletters, we hope to feature some of these people to whom we are so grateful. It is our hope that this will also spark you to think about creative ways that you can make a HUGE difference to Agape and our kids.



Above: Mildred Emmons and fellow walkers.

### MILDRED EMMONS AND VINEYARD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP FRAMINGHAM

The Vineyard is Lynne and Kim's home church and has long been a staunch supporter of Agape's work. But Mildred Emmons took it a step further - literally. Last spring, she came up with the idea of an **Agape Easter Walk**. She did all the planning and administrative work for the walk, including



Above: The Agape Walk Band featuring the Emmons/Stark families!

organizing a team to develop walker packets with sponsorship forms and Agape information. On Palm Sunday, she kicked off the walk with the "Agape Walk Band" and walkers set off on a 3 mile course around the church. Walkers contacted family, friends and co-workers to ask for sponsorship support – last year's walk introduced 100+ new people to Agape!

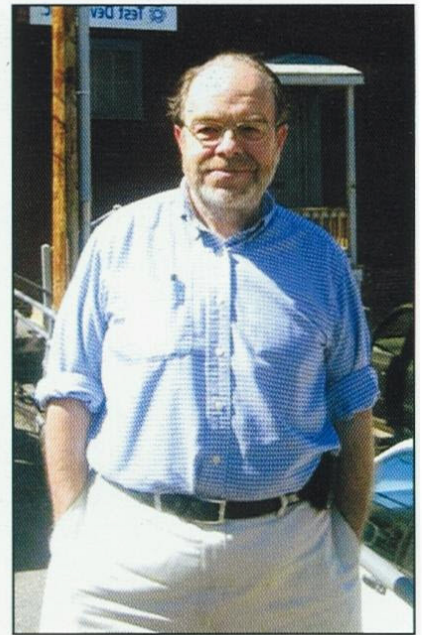
Mildred is at it again – the second annual Agape Easter Walk at VCF took place Sunday, April 1, 2007. When asked why

she wanted to organize the walk, Mildred said "I was looking for an inexpensive, fun fundraiser that would easily involve the whole church family. Costs of running the Walk are minimal with all donations going directly to Agape. Adding a "free lunch" for everyone after service that day makes for a great all-church "feel good" gathering!"

## **ERIC SONNICHSEN AND TEST DEVICES, INC.**

Eric Sonnichsen first heard about Agape when Kim presented to Memorial Congregational Church in Sudbury during a Sunday service. MCC is another church that is a committed supporter of Agape's work. The church currently sponsors one of our HIV positive children, Swathi, and has completed clothes drives, and holiday fundraising for Agape. Eric responded immediately to the call for help and his company, Test Devices of Hudson MA is now sponsoring a full orphanage (\$15,000 a year).

For over 30 years, Test Devices Inc. has been the premier source for centrifugal stress measurement systems and services. In addition to leading the field in building spin test systems, Test Devices provides advanced technology spin testing services to developers and producers of high-speed components of jet engines, medical centrifuges, machine tools, industrial compressors, and high-speed electric motors, among others. Test Devices clients include companies in India.



Eric Sonnichsen in front of Test Devices offices in Hudson, MA.

When asked why he wanted to support Agape, Eric said "Our company has benefited significantly from projects we have done for the government of India. We welcome the opportunity to give back something to the people. Agape presented us with a chance to do something worthwhile for the young people of India who would otherwise have no hope. We are privileged to be able to contribute in a small way to the important work this organization performs."

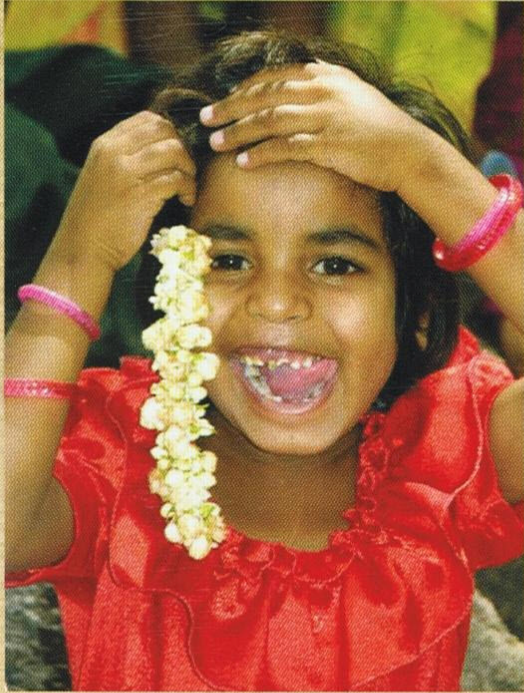
Eric's wife, Barbara Fleming, also shares a desire to help Agape. Barbara is a nurse who worked with AIDS babies when the AIDS crisis first hit in the US. She recalls, "almost all of the babies died. We didn't know how to treat them. It was a very difficult time and I imagine it isn't much different in India right now." We are grateful for the support of Eric, Barbara and Test Devices.



Sara Abramovitz loads a bag of Agape toys.

## **SARA ABRAMOVITZ, THEA BADER AND CONGREGATION OR ATID**

Agape was one of the ten plus organizations that participated in Congregation Or Atid's Mitzvah Day on January 7, 2007 – a day focused on reaching out to those in need. Agape had a table during the event where members of Congregation Or Atid could learn about Agape's work. The congregation also collected for Agape, Big Brothers/Sisters and Kosher Food – Kim left the event with two full car loads of gently used clothing and toys for the kids. Kim's neighbor and friend, Sara Abramovitz, connected Agape with Thea Bader, the Mitzvah Day organizer. As it happens, Thea was a long ago acquaintance (the wife of Kim's first boss at Bain!). Sara says "I am so moved by the Agape kids and I thought having Agape participate in the Mitzvah Day was a great way to help out."



Manga

## GET INVOLVED

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You too can make a HUGE difference for Agape and our kids. **Will you consider:**

**Organizing an Agape Walk for your church, synagogue, or work place?** Contact Kim for a ready to go "Organize a Walk" kit.

**Sending letters/emails to your friends and family telling them about Agape?** Contact Kim for ready to go materials!

Lynne Voggu, Executive Director, [lynne@agapeintl.org](mailto:lynne@agapeintl.org)

Kim Ogden, COO, [kim@agapeintl.org](mailto:kim@agapeintl.org)

P.O. Box 918, Sudbury MA 01776, P:978-443-3180, F:978-440-8925

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Sudbury, MA 01776

P.O. Box 918

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