



New Year ~ New Hope ~ New Life!

Happy Birthday Esther!

To many of us, it seems like such a small thing to celebrate a birthday. We expect them, plan for them, and celebrate them. But for many children, getting to their next birthday is nothing short of a miracle. Esther is no exception.

She's an adorable baby now, but she wasn't always that way. She was quite scary when she first arrived at Agape. She was so small, so fragile, the idea of trying to hold her and not break something was frightening to our staff and no one wanted to try and do so. When she arrived she was two and half months old and only 2.5 kgs (5 lbs.) — a small birth weight by today's standard. She was seriously malnourished.

This is what Agape is all about! Love (Agape) "transformations"

I was drawn to her immediately. It seems I'm always drawn to the "underdog". Worried that she was so medically delicate, I needed the help of Ganga Bhavani, one of our older teen girls who had just finished high school, to transport her to my house and help me with her for the next four months. I knew that having come to Agape, Esther was about to go through quite a metamorphosis in the coming days.

That was yesterday it seems, actually it's been a year and today she's an adorable

fun-loving baby surrounded by 250 Agape brothers and sisters who love and adore her. You can see her here playing with Matthew, who's story will be told in another article.

This is what Agape is all about! Love (Agape) "transformations". Simply holding a small malnourished infant and getting them fed, and praying for them regularly translates to love.

I enjoy spending time with the babies during that transitional period. I know what is ahead for them now; a life that they could not have imagined without Agape's help. A life that your support of Agape provides because without you, we could not continue to reach out to others like Esther and bring them to Agape.

~ Lynne Voggu, Founder



Top: Esther on arrival
Middle: Esther on her 1st birthday
Above: Esther & Matthew

Your support is life-changing!



AGAPE PREPARES STUDENTS.



AGAPE PROVIDES FAMILY.



AGAPE PROMOTES FUN!

Love Transforms



Rakesh, Sweetie, and Luke might not have survived without Agape's help. Thanks to you, they are thriving!

Some of Agape's first babies – Rakesh (arrived at 7 months of age), Luke (4 ½ months) and Sweetie (arrived at 2 ½ months) – were all HIV positive when they arrived at Agape. Their future did not look bright, and there was no one else who would care for them due to inability, fear, or both.

Receiving and raising up children whose lives have been ravished by AIDS is Agape's mission. Initially, it was the orphans whose parents died of AIDS or were too sick to

possible by your support.

We have also seen the grace of God provide solutions when human intervention or understanding fails. Agape's founder, Lynne Voggu, believes that she was inspired to create the "3P" treatment for the kids.

The "3P" treatment is an unlikely yet effective combination of PediaSure, with its vitamins, mineral and balance of protein, fats and carbs; Peanut Butter which helps with rapid weight gain; and Prayer for each child and their specific needs and issues. And this is what we believe is the explanation for our "little miracles" that we have running around and thriving at Agape.

We ask that you continue to partner with us so that together we can continue to effect incredible life changes in the children who come to Agape, and lovingly help their transformation into new life.

"How is this amazing transformation from HIV positive to HIV negative achieved?"

continue to raise their children who came to Agape. The mission was quickly enlarged to include those who were born HIV positive and well on their way to AIDS unless Agape did something to intervene.

Today all three of these babies are HIV negative! Rakesh is now 10 years old and studying in 4th class. Luke is 7 years old and in 2nd class; and Sweetie is 6 years old and in 1st class. All are doing well and have bright futures ahead of them.

The same can be said for Paul, Matthew, Sampson (pictured, left to right) and Steven. They all came to Agape HIV positive and – thanks to the care you help Agape provide – they are now HIV negative!

Samson and Matthew are 3 ½ and attend Agape's nursery school (lower kindergarten). Paul and Steven are only 3, so they will start attending school next year.

How is this amazing transformation from HIV positive to HIV negative achieved?

Babies often test HIV positive because they still have their mother's antibodies within them. However, after 18-24 months the mother's HIV infected antibodies leave as the child continues to develop their own. It is during this time when good nutrition, care – along with the grace of God – helps these babies transition and re-test as HIV negative.

We see that provision comes in many forms for our kids. It can be medical intervention, nourishments like formula, Cerelac, PediaSure and peanut butter - all of which are made



These Agape "brothers" are looking forward to a great future now that they are free of HIV!

Kids Helping Kids - From France!

You never know who you are going to meet or where connections are going to come from but it is always wonderful to see the intertwining of events that result.

A friend introduced Lynne to Mrs. Raj Kumar, the principle of the Meridian School. She was looking for an orphanage because her servant's sister and brother-in-law had died of AIDS leaving three children; one was HIV positive.

That chance meeting lead to more than just helping those three children. A few years later, Meridian School students, that come from a higher economic background, visited the Agape School. They spent time interacting with the Agape children and presented Christmas gifts.

The Meridian School has a cultural & language exchange program with Le Caousou, a private Catholic high school in Toulouse, France.

Their French exchange team, led by Marie-Gabrielle Cabare, wanted to visit an orphanage during their time in India. The Meridian School suggested Agape. During the one hour visit the Agape kids danced for them, and the French students sang for the Agape children.



Students from the Le Caousou School in France embraced the children at Agape, then held a special fundraiser to provide for the children's needs.

Two years later another team from Le Caousou visited. Their wish was to "be able to spend more time."

A few weeks after their visit, Lynne received this email:

"We visited you last January and our young pupils, who love you, organized an "Indian Fair" in their school for your Agape on 17 March in the evening with exhibition photos, an Indian meal, a conference on their trip and an Indian market, etc.

We would like know what do you need exactly? School materials, things for cooking and canteen, clothes, others ...? Can you give us a complete list for the 12 of March? "

Many thanks to the kids at the Meridian and Le Caousou schools for visiting, reaching out to, and helping the kids orphaned by AIDS that live and learn at Agape!

Award-Winning Compassion

The entire Agape family joins The Center for Leadership Innovation in applauding the many ways Debra Brede of DK Brede Investments in Needham, MA has made a difference in the lives of orphans at Agape. She has received the **Global Community Impact Award**, which comes with a generous donation of \$5,000. This honors Debra's long time investment in and impact on the children at Agape. In addition to her professional service on the board of directors and foundational support since Agape was established in 2004, she has impacted orphans lives in many ways, including:

- ☑ Bringing volunteer teams to work with the children and support an annual dental clinic for 9 consecutive years.
- ☑ Brainstorming with Lynne on ways to provide the children not just a home, but successful futures.
- ☑ Establishing a computer lab, inspiring some of Agape's college students to pursue careers in computer science.
- ☑ Selecting library books that educate, entertain, and improving their skills in English.
- ☑ Equipping an audio/visual room at the Agape school.
- ☑ Provide children's clothing, other essentials, lots of compassion, and love.



Annual visits from "Deb Auntie" mean hugs, love, and special provision to the Agape children ~ and Lynne!

Many thanks to Debra, her family, and The Center for Leadership Innovation!

YOU HELP CHANGE THE WORLD!



3 WAYS YOUR HELP HAS LASTING IMPACT ON ORPHANS

1. You helped seven babies get the needed care to transition from HIV positive to **HIV negative!** And more are being transformed!
2. You help give **home and family** to 250 kids who have lost parents to AIDS, giving them a safe place to heal and find hope.
3. You are helping **educate and equip** 250 orphans to enjoy lives free from poverty and despair.

Your support is needed for these every day miracles to continue!

Please make your charitable donation or choose a child to sponsor online at agapeintl.org or by mail to the address below and . . .

"Be the change you wish to see in the world" ~ Gandhi.



Agape International, Inc. is a registered 501c3 non-profit, EIN 20-0452537.

Donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

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