

COMMUNITY PICNIC!!

On June 16th, 44 men, women, and children laughed, played and ate at Agape's picnic in MacGregor Park. Several people who were at the park joined with us in the feast of burgers, chips, Kool-Aid, potato salad, and hotdogs. Everyone contributed something and the result was more than anyone could have produced on alone. As I watched the day unfold, true community broke through the walls of mistrust.

Centuries ago, and in some countries today, regional families gathered at harvest and contributed their best for a feast. Community unites individuals for common benefits that are greater than the sum of its parts. The Craig family can hold a private picnic, but we miss the richness of our community and risk isolation. Christ reconciled us to God and to one another, and He called us into one Body. Paul wrote the Corinthians, "Now the body is not made up of one part but of



many. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need

you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." I have learned that being part of the community is being part of body in which all members are indispensable. A severed or broken body is dead or soon will be, not unlike the broken communities of our city. May we find unity and wholeness at the foot of the cross where Christ purchased it.

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Do you have a _____ that you could donate?

You may have items that clutter your home but which could help Agape.
Contact us about donating any of the following.

Board Games - Members participate in regular fellowship nights

Rolling Desk Chairs - Members and staff can use at the office

Digital Camera - Document the events and share the stories of Agape

COURAGE

This summer our Agape Family gathers every Friday night to fellowship, eat food, and study the Christian devotional book Courage by Ed Cole. Reading the stories of courageous, young people in the Bible inspires our young adults to boldness. Youth never has been and never should be a reason for rebellion. Like Timothy, the young Agape family members must model faith for the elders in the community. Imagine the courage required to break generational sin or even confront an older family member. How do young men resist the sexual talk about young women? How do young women resist the lie that says “You need a man’s approval to be worthy?” Following Christ demands courage because the obstacles intimidate even the strongest intentions. The Holy Spirit renews our souls and the fellowship of believers strengthens our resolve if we seek them. Friday nights are a time when many young adults give in to the lies, but a small group reunites each week to tell the truth and learn to have courage. Pray for all of us to courageously follow Christ in the face of evil.



AGAPE FAMILY MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Lives are transformed when the gospel of Jesus Christ intersects with our deepest needs. LaVerne lives a wonderful testimony of that intersection. Over the past year, she pieced together various part time jobs to support herself and her son Giovanni. In pursuit of her hopes and plans to impact inner city girls as a Christian teacher, LaVerne has worked for several nurseries and childcare programs. When Yellowstone Academy returns to class in the fall, LaVerne will fulfill a piece of her dream as a teacher’s aid. She has the opportunity to minister to inner city children in a powerful venue: Christian education.



LaVerne knows the pain of being hurt by the sinful actions of others. She also knows the consequences of treating that pain without Christ. The pain of humanity ultimately has one solution, the gospel of Jesus Christ who loved us so much that he died for us. Most people hold Christ at length until their hour of deepest need, and desperation precipitates the intersection. LaVerne demonstrates the joy of filling the pain with Jesus Christ, which continues transforming her life and will transform this lives of children in her class next year.

PRAY FOR US

Hidden sins are destroying lives

The community needs transformation

Lost people in our community need Christ

3 Mothers & 1 Father are looking for career work

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

Mentors - invest deeply in the growth of a person

Bible Study Helpers - facilitate spiritual discussion

Resumes/Interviews - prepare people to get hired

Weekly Administrative work - at our offices

Website Management - update information