



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

March 2021

AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Church
Franklin County

Bedrock Community Church,
Bedford

Covenant Fellowship

Franklin Heights Church —
Rocky Mount, CrossPointe
and Union Hall

Dwelling Place Christian
Fellowship

EastLake Community Church

Flint Hill Baptist Church

Goodview Baptist Church

Halesford Baptist Church

Inner-Faith Fellowship
Ministries

Morgans Baptist Church

Palestine Baptist Church

Radford Baptist Church

Rocky Mount Baptist Church

Staunton Baptist Church

Vitalize Church

Westlake Baptist
Church

His Provision Continues



He provides more than we ask!

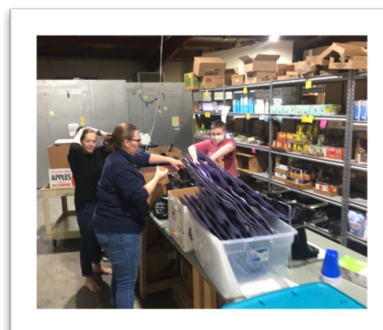
On March 10, our annual Roanoke Valley Gives fundraiser collected exactly \$13,000, easily beating our goal of \$10,000. There were 45 donors who contributed \$9,000 and our matching donor added \$4000. We will

now be able to move forward in completing a heating and air conditioning system in our store area.

Thanks to all of you who supported us through this campaign. The Agape Board of Directors is in awe of the generosity of our supporters in these difficult times. RVG has become our annual fundraiser for individual donations. We'll spend the money wisely and plan to do this fundraiser again in 2022.

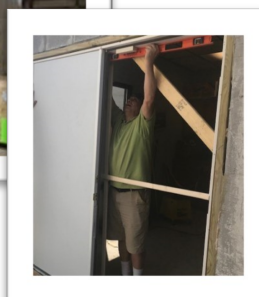
He brings hands to help

We are blessed with people willing to serve. Time and time again volunteers from our sponsoring churches come to lend a hand



and He blesses us with the things we need

Whether it's a refrigeration unit for Agape Vinton-Roanoke or a BIG door for Agape Lynchburg.



KEY DATES (see last page for details)

- Linen Drive ends **March 31**
- 17th Annual Agape Open: **Saturday, May 22**

God Supplies Faith-filled Workers

On a recent Saturday when we weren't open, volunteers from **Bedrock Church** in Rocky Mount came to lend a hand. The youth worked hard the hour and a half they were here, helping Eileen Hawkins in the Gifts and Toy Depts. and Lynda Howell in the Clothing Dept. Two strong men helped load food items onto pallets and then onto shelves — an effort greatly appreciated by our regular pantry workers.

A crew from **Vitalize Church** in Westlake comes several times throughout the year. Covid has kept them away most of this past year. Kellie Wisotzkey said they're happy to be back serving the Lord in this way. Here they are on February 26, helping in the Clothing, Pantry and Household Goods areas.



Thank you!

Member Churches
for furthering God's
Kingdom here on earth.

God Gives Us What We Need to Do His Work

from Debby Kountz, Pantry Lead, Agape Lynchburg

A blessing in the form of a door!

Almost from Day 1 of setting up the pantry, we realized that at some point we were going to need a door put in the back for more convenient delivery. For two years our delivery truck would park in the front where we would have to unload and get 3-4 pallets of food from the front parking lot through the front door, down the hallway and into the different rooms. Then the refrigerated and frozen items would have to go out to the garage on the other side of the building. Needless to say, this was a long tiring job and no one had to go the gym to lift weights or get their steps in by the time we were finished!

One day Tabitha and I had the privilege of sharing about Agape at Passion Community Church. After the service, Don came up to talk with us. He is a contractor and offered his services if there was ever a need. Little did he know what he was offering.



After praying, we met with him and shared our vision of an access door for the food delivery and the need for it to be wide enough for our 2-door refrigerator and freezers to come inside. Don got together with his friend David and after a lot of measuring, cutting, digging and sweating, they got it done!

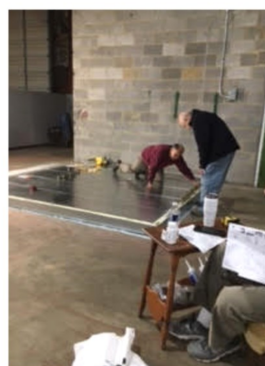
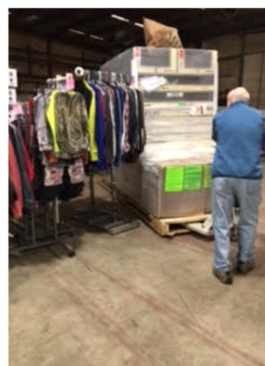
We are truly thankful to God for introducing us to both Don and David and for their servant hearts to use their gifts for the Lord at Agape. They put in a lot of hard work to make our work a whole lot easier.

from Sue Frase, Director, Agape Vinton-Roanoke

And one in the form of a BIG fridge!

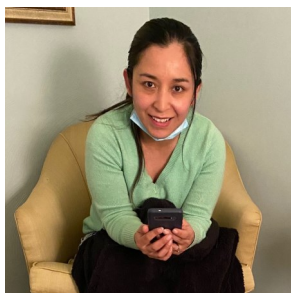
Through a generous donation, Agape Vinton-Roanoke was able to purchase a much-needed 10'x10' walk-in refrigerator. Getting it delivered, unloaded and put in place was a bit challenging. It took some careful planning, measuring and lots of muscle.

There's a bit of a "Godwink" in the delivery of the unit. There was some concern as to how to get the unit off the truck when it arrived as the crew who was going to get it into place wouldn't be there. God smiled and the driver of the delivery truck just happened to be from Halesford Baptist. He told Don Frase he was familiar with the Agape Center as he had brought a group of kids to the Moneta Agape to pass out turkeys one Thanksgiving. He had no problem doing whatever it took to get the fridge off the truck.



Husband Asks Client to Bring Us His Testimony

Andrew Tompkins' "God Story"



One day last month I was suppose to be working USDA. It was a busy morning and we were a little short on mentors. So I switched hats and said I'd mentor for a bit. God was at work as He always is.

One of my clients was Lesly Tompkins. She had hard-

ly settled into her chair when she said she had something from her husband that she needed to share with me. Her 35-year-old husband Andrew Robert Tompkins had become very ill with cold symptoms in early December and went to the ER in Roanoke. Naturally, they thought it was covid, but it was diagnosed as a cold. He ended up spending three or four days there in the hospital.

On Christmas Day, Andrew was having difficulty walking, he kept losing his balance and was bumping into walls. He and Lesly went to the ER again, this time in Bedford. His body had begun shutting down. He was transported to the hospital in Lynchburg for more specialized care. His kidneys weren't working, he was in a coma and the prognosis was not good. As Lesly puts it, only his brain and his blood were working. The family was told he probably wouldn't make it. BUT only God!

God had other plans for Andrew and now Andrew is on a mission to share his testimony with as many people as he can. He recorded the following on Lesly's phone and asked her to bring it to her mentor the day I met with her.

Thank you all. The truth is that several weeks before, my body was completely dead and the doctors did not know how I was still working. Only my heart, my lungs and my brain we're still functioning on a small level. Doctors ruled me dead and told my family. But the truth is Jesus resurrected me and gave me a testimony just like Lazarus. I was dead, but now I'm alive — by the power of the Holy Spirit. And in that, now, we, myself and everyone praying have a great testimony to share with everyone for the glory of God. I am alive. I am free, and my organs are working again. My brain is clear and my mind is focused. Thanks to God and His

glorious purpose. A new layer has been given to the purpose of God's call on my life. And with such a strong testimony, I now have an understanding, and a power and a boldness to preaching and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your prayers. I say this because in our prayers there is power. In your faith I received the glory of God over me. In your faith, whether small or large, God listens and gave me the miracle of life over my body once more. Now I have the ability to advance, preach and share the gospel of Jesus Christ, with the whole world without fear, and to bring glory to God through the growth of His kingdom. For this reason, and this reason alone, to glorify Jesus, Lesly and I are now moving forward together once again. Thank you and thank God.

Andrew spent a few weeks on dialysis before his kidneys started functioning on their own. He had a catheter hooked up to his heart and it was doubtful he'd walk again. Now he is FULLY recovered. He does not remember anything about being sick. He remembers before and after, but nothing of the time he was so very ill. Needless to say throughout this ordeal Lesly was scared. She's originally from Peru and as much as she loves Andrew's family, she felt very alone. She could only reach out to her family by phone and there were all kinds of fears going through her mind. She knows her life and her love for the Lord, too, has been deepened by God's healing touch on Andrew. What a beautiful testimony of the power of prayer. Not only for Andrew but for Lesly and their family. And a reminder to us all to tell others about the goodness of Our Lord.



Getting Ready to Tee Off

The 17th Annual Agape Open is right around the corner. This year's tournament is going to be held May 22 at the Copper Cove Golf Club (formerly known as The Westlake Golf and Country Club). The location isn't new, but the owners are and so is the name. Last year's event raised more than \$21,000 and we expect that as more people venture out in the coming months 2021 will benefit us even more.

If you're a golfer, get three of your buddies and register your team to play! If you just want to be out in the fresh air with others, there are many ways you can help make this a fun day! The program offers 18 holes of golf, including cart, an opportunity to win great prizes, and lunch before tee time. Registration is \$75/person. Prizes will be awarded for the three lowest team scores, longest drive (both men and women), and closest to the pin (men and women). Tournament Sponsorships are available for \$1000; Gold Sponsor \$500; Hole Sponsor \$300 and Program Sponsor \$200.

Additional details and registration forms are online at www.agapecentersml.org or mail registration check (memo Agape Open) to The Agape Center, PO Box 573, Moneta VA 24121. You may contact Bob Winters at 484- 888-1856 for more information or questions on volunteering the day of the event.



Annual Linen Drive Ends March 31

Another successful Annual Linen Drive draws to an end this week. Thank you to all who donated sheets, blankets, comforters, towels, washcloths, and money. These are our most requested household items and many clients will be blessed by your generosity. Linens can still be dropped off at the Agape Center, EastLake Community Church or Lulu's Closet in Forest. Cash donations can be made online at agapecenter.org or mailed to The Agape Center, P.O. Box 573, Moneta VA 24121.

The **New Beginnings** group, a fairly new group of widows (including some Agape volunteers), gather at a local restaurant to socialize and discuss the various community projects they plan to do. Last month the ladies all pitched in and brought linens for our drive. For meeting times and more information about the group contact Ginny Harris (804) 426-5186.



Carol Blevins, Alice Meador, Barbara Roberts, Bonnie Fiori, Ginny Harris, Barbara Finlay, Barbara Ohmke and Linda Leedy



Welcome New Volunteers & Our Numbers for February

Beverly Allison – Clerk, Mentor
Karen Smith – Telephone, Receptionist
Carol Moore – Pantry

February 2021

Families 565
 Individuals 1,928

February 2020

Families 789
 Individuals 2,672