

"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles."
PSALM 34:17

AGAPÉ
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DECEMBER 2017 AGAPE NEWS

Dear friends and family,

With only 1 day left of 2017 we look back on a year full of highlights, heartsore and surprises.

Psalm 73:23 – 28 came to my mind: **"I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And being with you, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds"**.

We want to shout out what the Lord has done!!!

The highlight of the year was definitely when we moved our special needs children into the new Asiphe Home; Mental Health Care Facility. The Facility renovation started January 2016 and the Cerebral Palsy ward was completed in July 2017, in which we moved all the current Asiphe residents at the time. The facility is so beautiful and new and really provides enough dedicated spaces to provide in all the special needs of the children. The spaces are disability friendly and there is so much openness and light.

Everybody was so excited when the Cerebral Palsy ward was completed that the carers (our angels) worked overtime to get everything in place and move the children. Gerrit made the high beds with so much love to Gideon's instructions, it looks so beautiful in the bedrooms. With this new facility we almost doubled the amount of children that can be accommodated. When word got out that our Organization had more bed spaces available we were bombarded with admission applications from various hospitals, social work institutions and government agencies.

Some care facilities in the Cape Town Metro area had to be closed down due to non-compliance issues and some of these children were then transferred into our facility (Asiphe Home). After all the new admissions the current total residents at Asiphe Home is 37 children. We had to appoint more facility staff: more carers and specialized staff like a physiotherapist (already appointed), registered nurse (still looking for the right person) and an auxiliary social worker (already appointed).

A lot of the new admissions were very sick children that had previously been very neglected or abused. Some of the admissions from the hospitals were children that just required end of life care. This was the sad part of 2017; that we stood at open graves as we had to bury some of these little children. We could only hope that we had provided a loving and caring environment for them in their last few days. Cheslin is one of Asiphe Home's oldest residents and he is currently 17 years old. He went to hospital a few times throughout the year with recurrent chest infections and so many times we said goodbye to him and thought we will arrange his funeral, but then he came back time and again. We are so thankful that God intervened every time. Cheslin always has a smile, no matter how sick he is. We also had a break through with two of our children that had come to the facility just for TLC. They did not die like the

doctors told us and then we returned to the Hospitals asking the doctors to reconsider performing certain interventions, like putting in shunts in cases of hydrocephalus or feeding tubes (PEG) in cases when the child could not swallow properly and kept aspirating their food. Then we saw how these little children flourish and become strong and beautiful. Gerrit thanks the Lord that his 'old' wife has become too old to physically care for these sick children because he knows that the children would otherwise have ended up in our own home.

Some of our CYCC (Children's Home) children never get a change to go out for the holidays. They don't have family or friends and stay with us at Agape for the whole period of the December/January holiday. We took them out on day visits to the beach, train rides and other fun things to do, but it is never the same as when you visit another family and experience real family life. This holiday was no different and I was praying for some of our children to experience this. A group came to visit and we were talking about the children and that some of them will not have a family to take them out. Later I received a phone call of one of the people to say they talked and would like to take a child. We immediately thought of Gordon and this visit was arranged with the necessary social workers. He is 9 years old and it is the first time he got the chance to go out. The couple phoned us and sent messages with photos to show how he is enjoying his holiday. We cannot wait for him to come back and share his holiday experiences with us. Thank you Pieter and Michelle, the Lord has taken notice of your hearts and will continue to do great things in your life.

Now a new year, 2018, lies before us and we look forward to what the Lord will do at and with Agape. As always, we are excited to work with Him and see what He has in stall for us.

We would like to thank everybody who has contributed toward the Organization through donations, prayer, finances or visits. We trust that God will bless you greatly for your open hearts. See attached our Organization's Annual Report for 2017 in which you will find details regarding each individual programme at Agape Family Ministries.

Love

Gerrit, Ami and children

Amy and Gentry from ONE PASS Productions took up the challenge to continue the story since their last video clip from 2009. Thank you for such a difficult task, to compile a video with such a diverse family.

Please visit at these links and help us to proclaim the goodness of our God and the love of Jesus our Lord.

Agape The Continued Story **Facebook:** <http://bit.ly/2y8b96O>

Agape The Continued Story **YouTube:** https://youtu.be/24ssaefP0_o

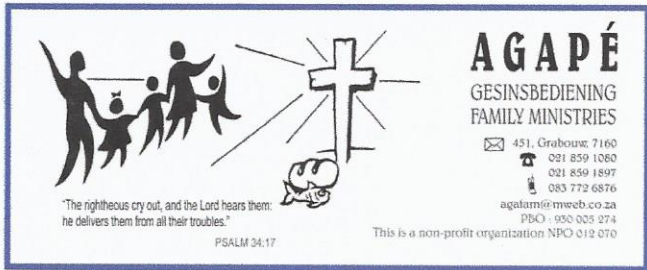
The Legacy **Facebook:** <http://bit.ly/2D2Zpp0>

The Legacy **YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/tQFZiCTrSGw>

So many more things have happened this past year. Please come and visit us to see for yourselves.



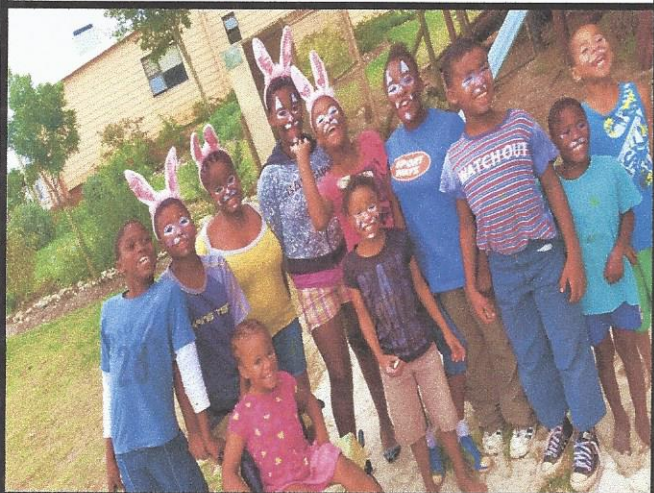
Gerrit and Ami and some of their many children.



ANNUAL REPORT

11th OCTOBER 2017

Thank God for all the Blessings of 2017!!



Horse Riding



Therapeutic Services



Gardening



Mother's Day

AGAPE VISION

To Redirect the Lives of Vulnerable Children and Families toward their God-given Potential and Destinies.

AGAPE MISSION

Agape Family Ministries are built on Christian Values.

We want to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ practically too Vulnerable and Needy Children and Families through means of:

- Homes for Orphaned, Abandoned and Vulnerable Children.
- Early Childhood Development Centers.
- Empowering our Special Needs Children through means of Rehabilitation, Skills Development and Holistic Care.
- Educating and empowering Care-givers and Teachers in order to promote Child and Family Development.

Agape's vision is to redirect the lives of vulnerable children toward their God-given potential and destinies.

Vulnerability has a very deep root meaning: *wounded, too tear off, prone to injury*. In Webster's dictionary it even refers to a WOLF, which suggests the violently tearing off of the person's limbs. This is the kind of child that usually comes to our Facilities. When we pour into those wounds the everlasting AGAPE LOVE of God, we witness the beginning of the healing process. This love exceeds the dictionary term 'love' and actually becomes a living organism that brings out the God given qualities in that child.

I often make this statement: No child deserves to think, 'There's a whole planet full of people (7.4 billion) and nobody wants me.' No child deserves that. The sad reality is that our children experience exactly that. How I wish I can take an eraser and wipe out all feelings of rejection from our children's hearts. I will never approve Facility Care, because I know that is not the Father's heart. A child belongs in a family home with a Mom, Dad and siblings. But as we all know, in this broken world, there are not enough families for all the abandoned, abused and neglected children. There is a need for Child and Youth Care Centres that strive to create a family environment for these vulnerable children. The fact remains that even with the best quality care given by a Child and Youth Care Worker will never be able to replace what was lost when that child became orphaned, neglected or abandoned. There will always be a longing for a family in the heart of a child.

We have witnessed many miracles throughout the years at Agape. We have admitted children with serious medical problems and some of those children were healed by God and are turning into beautiful young people today. There also have been those sick children who passed away and we were privileged to provide a loving, caring environment for them in their last days and hours. This type of environment and attitude has created a natural demand for more intakes of this nature at our facilities.

When people walk into Asiphe Home for the first time we are always amazed by the different kinds of reactions. Sometimes people cry, others feel uncomfortable and some blatantly ask: "why do you want to put so much effort and money into children like these". How sad. They obviously don't know our children. They may be physically disabled and mentally challenged, but spiritually they exceed us all. They have so much love to give and even if they cannot talk they correspond with love and smiles. Even Jesus says: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." Matt. 10: 29-31.

For months now we have been expecting one of our children to die; he suffers from Cerebral Palsy and has chronic chest infections and continuously needs to be hospitalized. He is seventeen now and has been with us since he was a baby. Actually he was one of the first special needs children we took in. We will phone the ambulance and they take him to hospital and the doctors just send him back again. A week ago it was the same but the ambulance men took him to our Day hospital for the doctor to examine him. A carer and I were sitting with him and after an hour I had to leave. I told this boy I'm going now but that the carer will stay with him. He forced his head to the side and gave me his beautiful smile. He is still with us.

People often ask us how we decide to take a specific child. Usually we are full, but then something happens in your heart and you just know: this is the Holy Spirit prompting you to take this one. We were on a camp in Hermanus with our CYCC children when Gideon phoned me and asked if I can assess a child at Hermanus hospital. It was one of those cases where the doctor told us: "This child is so brain damaged that there is nothing we are going to do for him. He would just come to you for TLC". I looked at that little boy and I asked myself do I really want to do this to my heart. The social workers and medical staff were standing around his bed and our social worker asked how long they estimated that he will live. The external social worker then said something that spoke to my heart; "The doctor's said he won't live long..... But God.....". When I heard those words I knew I must take him. I was reminded of all the children that doctors have spoken those words over and we witnessed miracles where they live. Because..... BUT GOD.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the wonderful employees at Agape. Without this team of wonderful, committed and dedicated people we would not be able to render the quality services that we do. If I walk into one of our Centres or Facilities and see the love that the children are given my heart swells with pride. When I look at the sacrifices Asiphe staff members make when they need to accompany a sick child to hospital and sit with that child right through the day and right through the night I don't know how to thank God enough for people like that in the world. I would like to thank all the other programme's employees as well, we are grateful for each one that performs his/her duties with the relevant care and expertise needed. We see and appreciate your hard work.

Our biggest thank of course is to God, our father, who continues to provide in all our needs. All the praise and glory belongs to Him!

Gerrit and Ami Coetzee

Agape Child and Youth Care Centre

Our CYCC Team have continued to provide a safe, clean and therapeutic residential environment for vulnerable and orphaned children, including HIV infected /affected children (0-18 years) in terms of the Child Care Act.

The Team provides total physical and emotional care to these children and Social Worker provides individual counselling to help these children achieve inner healing after being orphaned, abandoned or removed from their family.

Programmes:

Developmental Programmes include:

- Early Childhood Development
- Grade R School
- Special Needs Daycare
- CYCC Home School
- CYCC After School Programme

Therapeutic Programmes include:

- Occupational Therapy
- Therapeutic Horse Riding
- Social Work Individual and Group Work sessions

Recreational Programmes include:

- Camps and Outings
- Movies/Books
- Game Room
- Social Groups

Currently in 2017:

23 children currently placed in the facility. All children placed in facility with Court Orders in terms of the Child Care Act. Current CYCC Registration & Practice Certificate was reviewed/renewed in 2015 and is valid until 2020.

Operational Funding:

Facilities Directorate DSD is currently funding 20 children at the facility.

- DSD Funding application completed in July 2017 for the 2018/19 and thereafter funding cycle.

Monitoring & Evaluation and Quality Assurance:

Agape CYCC is monitored/ audited annually by:

- Facilities Directorate (DSD)
- BGR Alluvium (Financial Auditors)

Future:

CYCC Home School Programme will be closing at the end of the 2017 academic year due to cost constraints. Affected children was enrolled into De Rust School for 2018 academic year.

Expand upon Therapeutic Horse Riding Programme. Social Worker will be trained in terms of Horse Care and Riding.

Develop & introduce new CYCC Programmes in 2018.

Asiphe Home

Mental Health Residential Care Facility

Our Mental Health Team provides comprehensive Mental Health Care to children with Dual (Intellectual + Physical) Disabilities in a residential setting in terms of the Mental Health Care Act no.17 of 2002.

Programmes:

- Occupational Therapy including Speech Therapy
- Seating Clinics
- Physiotherapy
- Sensory stimulation programmes
- Medication Control
- Dietary support
- Routine physical care

Currently in 2017:

Asiphe Home has moved into our newly renovated facility in July 2017. The new facility is not only disability friendly with widened passage ways, double doors, ramps and disability friendly toilets and washing facilities. It is also compliant in terms of Fire Safety with Smoke Detection, Fire Alarm System, Fire Hose Reels + Fire Extinguishers/Blankets and Emergency Evacuation Doors with push bars.

There is currently **37 residents** admitted to facility; all residents are admitted through means of official court order either in terms of the Child Care Act or the Mental Health Care Act.

- Residents under 18: **Thirty Two**
- Residents over 18: **Five**

Mental Health Licence has been reviewed in 2017 and verbal confirmation was given that it will be renewed for 2018 (licence is reviewed and renewed annually).

Operational Funding:

Community Based Services from Department Health is currently funding the operational cost for 15 residents at the facility. Disability Directorate from Department Social Development is funding the operational cost for 24 residents at the facility.

- DOH Funding application completed annually.
- DSD Funding application completed in July 2017 for the 2018/19 and thereafter funding cycle.

Monitoring & Evaluation and Quality Assurance:

Asiphe Home was monitored/audited in 2017 by:

- Community Based Services (DOH)
- Disability Directorate (DSD)
- Mental Health Licensing (DOH)
- BGR Alluvium (Financial Auditors)

Future:

Facility might need to register as a Child and Youth Care Centre with the Facilities Directorate from DSD in future.

Develop additional programme to accommodate children with just Intellectual Disabilities and not just Dual Disabilities.

AGAPE EDUCARE PROGRAMMES 2017

Agape Early Childhood Development Centre

Rooidakke ECD Programme for 90 children (3-5yrs)
Rendering following services:

- Daily nutritious meals
- Implements approved ECD curriculum
- Recreational activities
- Prepare children for Grade R entry
- Home Visits

Currently in 2017:

Currently **83 children** enrolled. Agape ECD programmes are registered with the ECD Directorate DSD until March 2018. Application for re-registration completed in March 2016.

Fire Safety Measures installed at Centre and includes:

- Fire Hose Reels
- Emergency Evacuation doors with push bars
- Evacuation Plans and Emergency Assembly Points
- Quarterly Fire Drills

Operational Funding:

ECD Directorate DSD is currently funding the operational cost for 90 children at the Centre.

- DSD Funding application completed in July 2017 for the 2018/19 and thereafter funding cycle.

Monitoring & Evaluation and Quality Assurance:

Agape ECD Programme is monitored/ audited annually by:

- ECD Directorate (DSD)
- BGR Alluvium (Financial Auditors)

Future:

Continue to provide quality ECD services to the Community of Grabouw if Registration is approved by ECD Directorate.

Agape Grade R School

Provides Quality Grade R Programme as per Department Education Registration.

- Registered with Department Education
- Implements approved C.A.P.S curriculum
- Recreational activities

Prepare children for Grade 1 entry

Currently in 2017:

70 children enrolled in Agape Grade R Programme.

Operational Funding:

Department Education is currently funding the operational cost for 90 children for this Programme.

Monitoring & Evaluation and Quality Assurance:

Agape ECD Programme is monitored/ audited annually by:

- Department Education
- BGR Alluvium (Financial Auditors)

Future:

Continue to provide quality Grade R services to the Community of Grabouw.

Agape Special Needs Daycare

Day Care Program children with Intellectual Disabilities rendering the following services:

- Daily nutritious meals
- Annual Assessments
- Individual Development Plans
- Implementation of Day Programme
- Activities of Daily Living
- Life Skills Programme
- Vocational Skills Programme
- Recreational Activities
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Seating Clinics
- Appropriate referrals

Currently in 2017:

63 children from the immediate and greater community enrolled in this programme. It provides a place of safety for this particular vulnerable group of children throughout the day while their primary care takers are at work/ provides respite care to primary care givers.

Operational Funding:

Disability Directorate DSD is currently funding the operational cost for 64 children in this programme.

Monitoring & Evaluation and Quality Assurance:

Agape SN Daycare is monitored/audited annually by:

- Disability Directorate (DSD)
- Mental Health Licensing (DOH)
- BGR Alluvium (Financial Auditors)

Future:

Develop and expand on current Vocational Skills Programme. The hope is to work toward a Protective Employment Programme where the children at the Centre who turns 18 will work in a stipend programme at the Organization ensuring Continuity of Care for this group of vulnerable people.

Agape Disability Team hopes to start implementation in January 2018 with the first group of over 18's at the facility.

Agape Kids Club

Objective: To establish children in a living relationship with God the Father. Due to the lack of fatherhood in our community it is our hope that by laying a strong moral foundation in the lives of the children from the community, their lives will become the building blocks for a stronger community.

- Weekly meetings of 60+ children
- Meals + Recreation and Games
- Scripture based stories + Opportunity for children to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour
- Children become disciples to their own family and opens up the door for family restoration

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers in this project that give of their time and expertise to work with these little children every week. May God bless you all greatly!

AGAPE OPERATIONAL 2017

Renovations at the Agape 2 Centre:

Renovations at the new Asiphe Home have been completed of the following areas:

- West Wing Dormitories
- West Wing Bathrooms
- OT Room
- CP Classroom
- Therapy Room
- Kitchen
- Facility Office
- Visitor/staff toilets
- Staff Tea Room
- Dry Goods Storeroom
- Facility Storeroom

Awaiting completion of:

- Laundry
- Nursing Station
- Physiotherapy room
- Standing Frame Room
- East Wing Recreation Room
- East Wing Dormitories
- East Wing Bathrooms

Estimated completion date: November 2017

Awaiting new Electrical and Plumbing Certificates after full renovation completion.

Renovation of the Agape Administration Block:

Renovations of the Agape Administration Block have been completed in August 2017. It is here where Human Resource, Financial and Administrative Management of the Organization takes place on daily basis.

Human Resource/ General Office Administration: Victoria Tzasi
Financial Administrator: Sunette Scheffers
Facilities Manager: Gideon Coetzee

Agape Staff Training Schedule 2017

Relevant staff at the Organization attended following trainings/ capacity building workshops throughout the year:

- Fire & Evacuation Warden Training - March 2017
- Life skills, Sexuality Education for Intellectual Disabilities
18-19 May 2017
- Paediatric First Aid Training - 20th May 2017
- Child Act and Disability Workshop - 26th May 2017
- **HAMBISELA TRAINING;** started July 2017- still continuing
This training contains following modules:
 - What is Cerebral palsy
 - Positioning/seating of CP child
 - Feeding of CP child
 - Communication with CP child
 - Activities of Daily Living
 - The CP child and Play
- Toilet Training for Intellectually Disabled child - 13 Sept 2017
- Kitchen Cleaning Training; 26-27 Sept 2017
- Bereavement Training; 3-5 Oct 2017
- Horse Groom's Course for the Therapeutic Horse Riding Programme - 10th October 2017
- Autism Western Cape Workshops - Oct 2017

New Staff Appointments in 2017:

- CYCC Social Worker - March 2017
- CYCC Programme Implementer - June 2017
- 5 CYCC Care Workers - June 2017
- General Manager - June 2017
- 6 Asiphe Care Workers - July 2017
- 1 Special Needs Daycare Class Facilitator - July 2017
- 1 Special Needs Daycare Programme Implementer - August 2017

Planned Appointments for 2018:

- 2 Staff Nurses - Asiphe Home
- Physiotherapist - Asiphe Home
- Social Worker - Asiphe Home
- Social Auxiliary Worker - Asiphe Home

Agape Therapy Services 2017:

Marie Vorster (Occupational Therapist) has continued to provide and oversee all Therapeutic Assessments and Interventions at the Organization throughout 2017.

Interventions include:

Individual Therapy/Stimulation Plans, Individual Occupational Therapy, Seating & Positioning of CP children, Staff Training, liaising with relevant Therapy Service Providers and making relevant referrals to other Therapeutic Institutions.

All employees at the Organization are screened against the DSD National Child Protection Register and must have Police Clearance.

Supporting Organizations/Government Departments

Agape Family Ministries would like to acknowledge and thank the following Organizations and Government Departments for their continued support throughout 2017:

- **CSPID (Children with Severe & Profound Intellectual Disabilities) – Department Education**
 - Assessments of children at Asiphe Home, Agape CYCC and Agape Special Needs Daycare
 - Input with regard to Daycare Programme and Individual Development Plans
 - Input with regard to therapy services at the Organization
- **Senecio NPO (Therapy Services)**
 - Providing Hambisela Training Material (Facilitation: Agape OT)
 - Special Therapy Equipment
 - Therapy Students placement
- **Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disabilities**
 - Training opportunities
 - Advocating for Organizations providing care to people with disabilities
- **Community Based Services - Department Health Caledon**
 - Training opportunities
 - Operational Funding Asiphe Home
- **Rehabilitation Services - Department Health Caledon**
 - Seating Clinics/ wheelchair repairs twice a year at Agape Facilities
- **Grabouw Community Health Centre**
 - Chronic Medication Dispensary
- **Department Education**
 - Training opportunities
 - Operational Funding for Agape Grade R Programme
- **Department Social Development**
 - Training opportunities
 - Operational Funding for Agape CYCC, ECD, Special Needs Daycare and Asiphe Home

Financial Audit 2016/17

Conducted by BGR Alluvium (Registered Auditors); Financial Statements for 2016/17 available at Agape offices.

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Agape Family Ministries is a registered Public Benefit Organization: 930005274

Our Organization is registered to issue Article 18A certificates for all donations received.

Gerrit Coetzee

Director
Tel: (021) 859 1897
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Asiphe Home 2010



Asiphe Home 2017



Agape Family Ministries Banking Information:

Bank: Standard Bank
Account Name: Agape Family Ministries
Account Number: 082201439
Branch Code: 050212