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PSALM 66

GOD'S AWESOME POWER AND DEEDS

**Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name. Make His praise glorious.
 Say to God, How awesome are Your deeds.
 So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You
 All the earth bows down to You; They sing praise to Your Name.
 Come and see what God has done,**

**I will come to Your temple with burnt offerings and fulfil my vows to You –
 Vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.
 I will sacrifice fat animals to You and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats.
 (I will offer my life to You) – *Our translation***

Come and listen, all you who fear God; Let me tell you what He has done for me.....

**Praise be to God,
 Who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me.**

To all our dear friends,

Thank you so much for all your prayers. I feel great. They have done all the tests and can find no cancer. The growth is still there but this time the scan showed that it was smaller. The surgeons and gynaecologist felt that it is too much of a risk to operate and that they will rather follow up every month or so. I still have the colostomy, but that is really not so bad – more of a nuisance sometimes and other times a big joke.

My Father is in control and even this time while I was in hospital I had all the peace of mind that I am in His wonderful hands.

As usual the Lord took time to spoke to me and we had a good time in hospital. He brought me back to some things that He has taught me before and I carelessly neglect. One of the things was to see people again with His eyes and hear with His ears. Mother Theresa said: **“If I judge a person, I have no time to love him. Look into the eyes of the ones who are hardest for you to like, and see the One you love”**. In this time Gerrit had his own encounter with Father and experience the same. Father tends to always bring our hearts in unity about things.

We walk again with new eyes in the community. We see Jesus when we hold an abandoned baby or look in the face of a hungry child. We see Jesus when we look into the face of a drug addict and our hearts cry as much as the Father's heart cries. We cry with a mother who has given her baby for adoption and wonder how he is doing now – both of us remembers the day that she put that little boy in the arms of his new father and he just thank her and thank her over and over while the tears of joy flow over his face. He could not take his eyes off his new son.

How wonderful to flow in this love that He puts in our hearts.

In the past we have taken in some boys/men who were on drugs or came out of jail. Through the work of the Holy Spirit and by the healing power of Jesus Christ these boys were made new people. Some of them are still with us and a living testimony of what He has done in their lives. Others have gone out and are in college or work somewhere else – a witness to all about the healing power of Jesus Christ.

This time it's woman. Young mothers with small babies who are on drugs and really cry out for help. They came to us and beg that we must help them. To send them to rehab centres are just too expensive and neither they nor us have that kind of money. So, as in the past with the men, we are trusting Father to do a work in their lives. We don't have the knowhow or money for this, BUT a sure faith that God can do it. Please pray with us for the first two who has come in. Pray for their health, their children, their relationships – but above all, that they will find a relationship with God their Father and experience a love relationship with Jesus so that they will soar like eagles with the Holy Spirit. Uncle Kallie and Aunt Elizabeth Oppelt act as mother and father for them at Agape 1. With them they experience a real home environment and the fullness of being accepted.



AGAPE 4

We stand in awe. We are use to miracles – but this blows our minds. In a time of world recession our Father builds AGAPE 4. The school and the house. Enjoy the pictures – but best of all – come and see for yourself. He is so great, so awesome!

We stay in the house with 10 children. Enough space to run and play and just enjoy life and to KNOW it comes from a Heavenly Father who loves them to pieces.

The house at Agape 4 where we stay now

We are sandwiched between two worlds

The view from the veranda is breath taking beautiful. We look out onto farms and the mountains. At our back door we look out on the flats (low cost housing projects – before it was squatter houses). This is where our people stay. This is where we find hidden diamonds that no one is aware of because they don't know the poor, or relate to them. What a privilege to be part of their world and experience the love they show to us.



Look at our crops



We immediately started with vegetable gardens. We have done it on the method of "farming God's way" and really reap the first fruit.

We already enjoyed our first crop. In the picture is our eldest grandson, Stefan.

We are now the proud grandparents of 3 grandson's and a fourth on it's way.

Ilse-Mari and Ian have two sllons: Stefan and Braam and they expect their third son in October. Gerrit jnr. and Magdel's first son was born 4.5.11.

We are so blessed!

Another blessing Father has just poured out on us was when Gideon, our youngest biological son told us that he felt the Lord was telling him to give up his job as a professional nurse to come and join us. What a privilege! After his grade 12 year he had the same calling and served us for two years before he went to college. Now he

has the knowledge and experience to add. He was very happy in his profession and we know he will miss his work and colloquies very much.

AGAPE SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN.



The school building can accommodate 30 children.

After much prayer and discussions with the Department of Education we have decided not to become a Departmental school, but stay a private Christian school. This means that we won't get subsidy for salaries, but we will trust the Lord as usual for salaries for our teachers. People like to give money for a project, but often forget that the project must go on and also needs money. We know our Father knows this and He will see that the money comes in. These teachers are so committed and the children love them.

We make provision for children that cannot be placed in other special needs schools. Most of our children are on nappies. So apart from the school work they must be fed, for most of them cannot eat by themselves, and they need a nappy change. Then they must do their exercises. Quite a full program!



Pricilla in her class with her children

The hall inside where the children can play on rainy days or do group activities

Senecio therapists, Marie and Telanie (occupational therapists) come to the school and show the teachers how to do the exercises with each child. They play a big part in the lives of our special children. They are not only involved with the school, but also in Asiphe Home – our Home for disabled children.



Everything at Agape has a story. Because Agape belongs to God, He also or castrates everything in His own beautiful way. ***In this picture is George.*** He and his wife, Jo, visited Agape with friends who also came for the first time. From S.A. they went to Singapore and there the Lord spoke to them to come back to Agape and paint the school. That was exactly what they did. They become close friends and are spiritually involved in much more than this. The children really enjoy Jo's meals and she spoils them with all sorts of nice things.

Our other friends that visits us every year from the island Jersey, Ron and Jenny Mitchell, visited us and Ron has difficulty in moving with his one leg. While with us he also saw how difficult it is for our disabled children to move in the sand with their wheelchairs. The result of this visit was the tar roads that you see at Agape 4. Now the children can go round and round in their wheel chairs and the others on skate boards. They love this very much and it looks beautiful. We always say that Agape 4 is Ron's baby – he really has a Godly interest in Agape 4 and the way how God unfolded this Miracle.

Another beautiful, but also sad, story behind Agape 4 is that of our friends Chris and Emma Jonkers. Chris is very sick of cancer and they had to sell their house in S.A. The Lord told them to give a substantial amount of this money to help us complete the school at Agape 4. He is very weak now, but still praises the Lord all the time. How we long that he can come with Emma and see Agape 4 as it is now.



We can never mention all the names of people who are involve in Agape – but we appreciate each one of them. This is just a few stories of how Father God provides for us. There are so many. Like elderly people that we know don't have much, but give because they believe that is what Father wants them to do. Children bringing from their pocket money or even arrange events to get enough money to buy presents for all the children. The men's group from Betty's Bay that come and built cupboards wherever we need them – they just appear like angels and when we look again they are gone, but the work is done.

Our children even have a granny and grand-pa from the U.K. that come and visit their "grandchildren" once a year. How we appreciate Oupa Allan and Ouma Kathleen. Once they ask us if it won't be better to give the money for us to use and the answer was a BIG NO. We need the love they show to the children more than all the money.

There are so many people praying for us – this is what keeps us going and Agape growing. To us Agape is as big a miracle as it is for other people. None of this was our planning, our dreams, our vision (call it what you like). This is God and He alone. If we look back we stand in awe of what He has done.

How awesome to witness how God has carefully selected His own grounds, raised His own money, planned the layout of the properties and even raise up friends from all over the world to establish His Glory and His Name.

At least we have figured out why He has chosen us. It was because He was sure that we know who we are and that we definitely did not have the knowhow or skills to have done this. We know exactly who we are.

Faizel is one of our boys and he married Tessa in December 2010. Tessa was a volunteer from Holland. They are both with us now as volunteers, but it doesn't feel right to call them volunteers – they are more like children. They are a blessing to us and really have servant's hearts. They do the hospital runs with the children, work in the school for disabled, do children's clubs and babysit for us if necessary.

Our other volunteer at the moment is June Boleat, also from Jersey, who will be with us for 3 months. What a servant of God. She is just willing to do everything. She is sometimes even busier than the children – so they relate very well to her.

We are waiting for our other volunteers and are looking forward to have them in the June holidays when all the children are at home.

GRADE R SCHOOL AND CRECHES

It's going very well in all our schools. Yolandi (our eldest adoption) has served us now for 8 years in our house. She was like a second mom to the children. She is now 26 and felt she needed a break or a change.

Ferguson suggested education as an option and she started to work as a volunteer in our grade R school. This was the best thing that could happen to her. She will start with her studies one of these days. The Early Childhood Development uses our crèches for training. Their students come in and help in the classes. This is wonderful for both parties as the students get exposure and for our teachers it is an extra hand in the class.

ALL THE HOME'S

Our housemothers in Asiphe home needs an extra break some time or another. Now that the volunteers are here we try to work in an extra off day for them. They deserve it. They keep our special children happy and try to create a home for them.

Our other house parents, Fergie/Karlien and Selwyn/Maria had a well deserved weekend away. They really deserved that weekend and came back fresh and renewed for the new term with their kids. All the children are well and we promise an update on them in the next newsletter.

At the moment we care for 45 children in our 4 homes and we have now a social worker from the Department who helps us with all the legal issues of our children.

Telanie and Marie from **Senecio** are also involved in teaching us and the other children in our home how to handle little Samuel our autistic child and this kind of teaching is also going to happen with our other bigger children. This will enhance the special needs child's feeling of acceptance as the whole family becomes involved in the special care program.



Telanie and Marie teaching our children about the importance of the sensory development in a child and how to understand little Samuel's way of reacting in certain behaviour patterns.

This is a long newsletter and we will write more often, because we are now at last out of the big buildings, and will now pay more attention to neglected areas within the family of Agape.

Today we look back and see a wonderful Father who are interested in the smallest detail of our lives, work in us and change us daily. Now what is beyond Agape 4? You might say 5. Yes we have received another property and we can't wait to see what God

is up to. Where will it end, in Heaven I believe, because we serve a generational God who is busy raising up an end time army for Himself. For we know the revival will come from within our hearts and rivers of resurrected people will fill this valley of Grabouw, because there are hundreds of people praying for this area. We wait with expectancy to see our Lord High and lifted up.

“For my concern is that their hearts may be braced (comforted, cheered, and encouraged) as they are knit together in love, that they may come to have all the abounding wealth and blessings of assured conviction of understanding and may become more intimately acquainted with that mystic secret of God which is Christ the anointed One” Col: 2:2. What more can we ask of the Lord that all our families and staff and even the bigger community families might experience His intimate love for Him and for one another, “by this they will know you are My disciples”.

Thank you for a wonderful Agape team, we love each one of you with His love poured out in our hearts.

Much love.

Gerrit and Ami and family