PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY

for our administrator, JAMES CLEMENSEN.

He is still undergoing treatments for cancer.

He and his wife started Agapé 30 years ago. Over the years he has helped countless young men turn their life around. His vision, dedication, attitude, faith and compassion have made Agapé Boarding School what it is today.
It seems like a long time since I have written anything. I would really like to thank all of you for the cards, letters and telephone calls. There are a lot of people out there that are kind, thoughtful and loving. I also know that there are a lot of you praying. I know that God can move a mountain. I know that He can heal a body of cancer. It doesn’t mean that He will.

Mr. Clemensen’s body is full of cancer and is gaining more. The doctors have been wonderful, but they aren’t God. I just hope that God is not too much in a hurry to have Him with Him in Heaven. It makes me sound selfish, but I can’t help it. How your whole world changes with tragedy. My husband has spoiled me rotten.

I hope wives will take a better look at what they have and make it better if it needs fixing.

If anything happens, I hope God is ready to jump in and take good care of me.
upcoming events

July
4       July 4th Rodeo
17-19   Parent Weekend

August
8       Graduation
14-16   Parent Weekend

FATHER/SON GOLF TOURNAMENT

GRADUATION
August 8
10:00 a.m.
EVERY YEAR A GROUP OF the students are able to work with and train young horses in a special class called Colt Class. Headed by Ranch Manager, Riley Olson, the teen boys are instructed in all manner of horsemanship while being taught Biblical principles. At the end of class each day, the boys are required to journal what they’ve learned whether it be Biblical or equestrian.

The ranch promotes healing both mentally and behaviorally through the natural therapeutic responsibilities and opportunities one can only experience in a real ranch-world setting. Agapé Ranch Ministries is in the business to make a difference in the lives of young men.

In June, we host a horsemanship clinic and sale to sell the horses trained by the students. This year our sale was a wonderful success and a great time for the young men to show how much they’ve learned about training horses and to see the fruit of their labor.

We wanted to share some testimonies of the students who were in Colt Class and had horses in the sale:

Revelation 19:14 “And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”

My horses name is Double he is a very calm patient horse willing to do what I need him to do. Working with him has taught me patience and given me an experience that can benefit me for the rest of my life.

Devon S. & Double

Proverbs 22:4 “By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life”

This verse means if you are humble, God honors you. Maple wants to please and is a servant. I want to be a servant also.

Wayne W. & Maple

Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”

My horse, Peppa, has taught me a few life lessons. When things get tough to push forward she taught me how to be patient. When I first started training her I was scared she would hurt me but one day in Bible reading we read Proverbs 29:25, from then on I decided to trust God and help me press on and keep me safe.

Josh W. & Peppa

John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

My horse’s name is Daisy. Daisy is very energetic, curious and smart. She is very meek, she has taught me even though she can run me over in an instant she doesn’t. I also need to be meek with my authority to be humble and show that with teaching I can become something better. My favorite life verse is John 15:13 I want to join the military when I am older, and I need to join for the right reasons. For the love I have for the people around me and if it comes to me laying down my life I know where I’m going. I am at peace because my eternity is in heaven.

Tariku E. & Daisy
Summer Time

Summer time and vacationing is right around the corner. Even though it seems to have been that way for a while due to the Covid-19, many people are starting to travel and not going to live in fear of this world-wide scare. Here at Agapé we have taken many precautions to protect the student and staff.

I would like to discuss the area of “vacations”. Much preparations must take place when preparing to visit your son. Scheduling time from work, flights, hotel, itineraries, etc...

While your son/child is here at Agapé make no mistake... he is being worked with and trained. I tell them this on a constant basis. We are not here to replace the home but rather reinforce, rebuild, and reconcile the home.

Your visit with your son is NOT vacation from Agapé please DO NOT make the mistake that some parents make. While he is off-campus (Burgundy or higher color) he must still abide by the rules of Agapé. One of the key factors in assessing and analyzing this positive “change” that has occurred in his life will be demonstrated on this visit. Some factors to consider:

- How quickly does he want to disassociate himself with the dress standard of the school?
- Does he desire to change his hairstyle during the visit?
- What music does he want to listen to? (music is a lifestyle... garbage in...garbage out)
- Is he Narcissistic in “his” visit? (not considering the rest of the family)
- Does he continue at all with the structure of Agapé? Ex: Bible reading, prayer, refraining from electronics, hygiene, cleaning up after himself, and having a servant leadership mentality. (Red shirts and higher for over-night visits).
- Does he make his bed in the morning...etc...?

Please allow us to help your home, and don’t see this visit as an “ESCAPE” from Agapé but rather as a moment to analyze and be consistent with the training that has been taking place in your absence. Once again, we are not here to replace the home. If you are having an upcoming visit please take these factors and use this time wisely.

BE SURE TO ASK FOR THE OFF-CAMPUS VISIT RULES AND HAVE A STAFF MEMBER GO THROUGH THEM WITH YOU.

In His Service,
Julio Sandoval
How long have you been working for Agapé Boarding School?
Twenty-eight years.

What is your position at the school?
Pastor. Although I’ve also been principal, director etc. Anything any staff member has done I’ve been there and done it also.

That is quite a long time for someone to work at one place in the ministry for so long. Do you have something you attribute that to?
God lead me and left me here. I’m just doing what He wants me to do and being where He wants me to be at.

How did you meet the Clemensens?
I met them in Stockton, CA 40 years ago. I was Bro. Clemensen’s trainer in the fisherman’s (soul-winning) club.

When did Bro. Clemensen first approach you about working for Agapé?
Probably about twenty-nine years ago he called me up and wanted me to consider coming out. It took me about seven months before I gave him my decision. I wanted to pray and make sure that’s what God wanted me to do.

Besides knowing that coming here was the will of God, was there something else about the job that drew you to work here? I always have the attitude that I don’t go look for anything. God has to bring it to me. I think we get out of God’s will going and looking for what we want to do. So I always prayerfully consider everything that God brings to me. When he brought me this job opportunity, I wasn’t expecting it. But when He did, I told God, “I’m going to pray about it and you’re going to have to show me that’s what you want for me.” I know preachers go out and look for churches, but I don’t do that. If God wants something for me, He’ll bring it to me. So when Bro. Clemensen brought it to me, I prayed for seven months about it. I wasn’t quick enough for Ma’am. Ma’am wanted me a lot sooner. I went out in October and saw everything for a week. After the week, Ma’am said “Are you ready to come?” I said, “Ma’am, I don’t make decisions like that. I came out to see everything and this is great, but I have to go home and do a lot of praying about this. You’re asking me to move my family clear across the United States to work here. I have to be sure beyond a shadow of a doubt before I give you an answer. I don’t know how people can pray for a week and know God’s will. God doesn’t work with me that way! It takes me a long time to be certain.”

What is something that you’d like folks to know about Agapé?
I believe that most people don’t realize how hard the job is working with rebellious young men, but how rewarding it is when you see their life changed. It makes it all worth it!
STAFF INTERVIEW
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WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT YOUR JOB HERE? I just love working with people. Helping everybody from the top to the bottom. Being an encouragement. I try to read people and tell if they’re having a bad day. Their countenance tells me a lot of things. Then I go in and try to joke or tease to lighten them and make their day better.

WHAT’S SOMETHING THAT YOU ADMIRE ABOUT JIM CLEMENSEN? He is a very compassionate man and wants to help everybody. He doesn’t give up on anybody.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW? One thing I think parents don’t realize is they send their boys here to get changed, but in order for a boy to be successful the parents have to change too. You can’t send a boy back into the same environment he was before and expect to have success. So if parents keep doing what they’re doing that didn’t help their son, when the boy gets home it’ll be the same situation. Parents need to look at ways to change their family and their life to help their son when he gets home. Parents have a tendency to blame the kids for their problems, when it’s their fault.

I had a dad come to pick up his son one time, and his son was doing really great in the program. We were sitting in the conference room and the boy said, “Dad before I go home, I want a contract.” The dad was surprised, “A contract?” “Yeah.” He said “I want you to get rid of all your alcohol. I can’t do it. You take me home and you have all that alcohol around it won’t be good. I’m not that strong. God can help me, and I think if it’s out of the house I think I can stay away from it on the street. But when it’s all around me at home every single day, it won’t work.” The dad looked at his son and said, “Well, it looks like you’re not coming home.” Parents don’t change what they’re doing, and it hurts the kids. It’s not all the kid’s fault. I thought I was a really good parent, but as I look back on my life, I see what a lousy parent I was sometimes. Because my kids are making the exact same mistakes I made. They followed me. I thought I was doing good then. I tried hard to be a good parent and have my kids obey me, but I still messed up. There have been so many times that I thought I knew what was right and the Lord would have to come along and show me what I was doing wrong.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE SUCH FUNNY STORIES. DO YOU HAVE A HUMOROUS STORY YOU CAN SHARE? Years ago, I was walking with this student by the duck pond. He looked at me and asked, “Bro, Burton when do those things grow up to be geese?” I said, “Say that again. I think I misheard you.” He said the exact same thing. “Where did you get that idea at?” I asked. He said “The ugly duckling.” I said “Well the only problem with that is that was a fable and a swan. Those are ducks.”

YOU HAVE RECENTLY GOTTEN MARRIED. WOULD YOU MIND SHARING SOME OF YOUR LOVE STORY? Probably seven months before I met Denise. God was pressing on my mind to get remarried. To be honest, I fought it. Because getting married is a big step and I was scared to do it. They hired Denise to work in the office and I didn’t really even notice her for a month and a half. Then I started watching her. I watched how she handled authority and how she responded to people. She just impressed me the way she did everything. How she had the right spirit and a good attitude. I surprised her and asked her out for breakfast here in town and she didn’t know what to say. All this time, God was working on her though, about me too. We had a good time on our first date. I let her know that I wasn’t in any hurry. We’re going to go real slow. Well, that wasn’t God’s plan! That was my plan.

We started dating in November, but by January 1, I already knew that she was the one for me. So I started planning our engagement. I had a secret agent, Shelbi Dumar. She found out her ring size for me. I got the ring and planned on asking her to marry me at the Valentine’s banquet. But I had to get the ring sized and the time for the banquet rolls around and I still don’t have the ring back. I had stuff already planned and in motion so I couldn’t delay because I didn’t have the ring. So I sat down with Denise and told her about a week and a half before that I was going to ask her to marry me. She didn’t know when I was going to do it or how but she knew I was going to propose without the right engagement ring. I went to Walmart and found that they sell plastic engagement ring sets for $8.99! I buy it and I propose to her at the banquet. I gave her some gifts and wrote her a poem and in the poem is when I asked her to marry me.

The funny thing is nobody, but Shelbi, Denise and I knew that the rings were fake. So after she put the rings on the ladies were all gathered around Denise saying how beautiful and gorgeous the ring was! It also fell apart after Denise got home that evening! So on Sunday morning, I get up in front of the church and say, “Good news, men. You don’t have to spend a lot of money on your wife anymore. They’re happy with a ring for $8.99 from Walmart.” But it’s something how God took both of us from not wanting to get married again to falling in love. God truly brought us together.
Luke 10:30-37 “And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”

Kindness means recognizing and responding to the needs of others even if it’s an inconvenience to ourselves. In the Greek, kindness is Philadelphia. Philadelphia is a pretty familiar word in our culture today. The way that we look, treat and respond to people should be as though they are our family or brothers.

In 1973 Princeton University conducted a psychological study they called “The Road from Jerusalem to Jericho” and they looked at the attitude of situational variables in helping. It was a study on the basis of the story of the Good Samaritan. Why didn’t the priest and Levite stop to help the Jew? They came up with three hypotheses on why the two didn’t help.

1. Someone who is thinking helpful religious thoughts would be less likely to stop.
2. People in a hurry would be less likely to offer aid to others.
3. People who are more religious in a Good Samaritan fashion are more likely to help than those of a priest or Levite fashion. In other words, those who are religious for the sole value of what it will bring them will be less likely to help than those who are religious searching for the meaning of life.

They recruited seminary students for the study of religious studies for the hypotheses. The professors gathered all the students in a building and told all of them that they would need to go a couple buildings down to finish taking the quiz and give a small sermon on helpful works. Unbeknownst to the students a man dressed as homeless person would be laying in the alley right next to their path. When the students were leaving, half of them were told to hurry that they were running behind and the other half were told that they had plenty of time. Of the students who were told to take their time, 63 of them stopped to help the man. Of the students who were told to hurry, only 10 stopped. This led them to the conclusion that time played a factor in people’s decisions to stop and help. “Ethics are often optional when time is on the line.” Was the general consensus. The priest and the Levite didn’t want to be inconvenienced.
The Bible doesn’t say what the Good Samaritan was doing or what his goal was, but time didn’t cause him to put his ethics on the back burner. He put his life on hold to help. That is a wonderful illustration of brotherly kindness. We, as Christians, should put our life on hold to help others.

In Colt Class, we have a saying we teach the boys, “Inconvenience yourself for others.” There’s always a job that no one wants to do. Therefore, make it your priority to be the first one to do that job. That kind of attitude is what will earn you the respect of your employer and peers. Doing for others is the best Christian spirit to have. Are you filled with brotherly love for others? Or only love for yourself?

How do we add Brotherly Kindness to our lives:

1. Recognize the Need of Others
   Luke 10:31 “And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.”
   The priest did see the man. The Bible says “he saw him” sadly, he still didn’t stop to help, but he did recognize the man on the side of the road had a need.

   I teach the boys to always focus on their horse during Colt Class. They should be attentive to the behaviors and patterns of their horse. For example, how does their horse come to the feed trough? If he always comes running in and is the first one there and then one day, he’s one of the last ones coming in, there’s a good chance there’s something wrong with him. That horse probably has a need that has to be tended to.

2. Realize the Need of Others
   Luke 10:32 “And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.”
   The Bible says the Levite, “came and looked on him”. The Levite not only recognized the need, but he realized it. The word, realize, means to bring into being or act. It means to make real or impress upon the mind as actual.

   One time I was riding a bronc bareback during a rodeo and the horse drove my leg into the panels in the arena. I had a nasty fall, but I got up. My friend, Mike, was the pickup man. He saw I had a bad wreck, but I got up and took a couple steps forward. He thought I was ok and turned his horse, but after a couple steps I passed out and fell flat on my face. I woke up in the Cat Scan at the hospital. My friend, Mike, recognized that I would probably need help because of the wreck, but it wasn’t until I fell flat on my face that he realized I needed help.

   Do we take time to realize what the problem actually is?

3. Respond to the Needs of Others
   Luke 10:33 “But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him.”
   James 2:20 “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead.”
   A Christian’s life is in vain if he doesn’t put works to his faith and help others. One of the things I love about the Christian life is that you don’t have to be well-studied or well-read to be able to make a difference. All you have to do is love people and try to meet their needs. Your faith should produce action.

   Jude 20 “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire;”

   The compassion and actions of a Christian can help point folks to Jesus. People are watching and there should be something about you that folks see is different. They should want what you have.

Riley Olson