

THE AGAPE INFORMER

A newsletter of Agape Fellowship society of New Westminster BC – Fall 2019

Inspired and empowered by Christ's Agape love, believers with and without visible disabilities work together to share the good news in New Westminster

Greetings from all of us at Agape Fellowship! This is the first edition of the Agape Informer, a newsletter that we plan on sending out approximately every four months. Our purpose is simply to let you know what Agape Fellowship is about, and to keep you updated on what we're doing to fulfill our mission. The past year has been a full one for us, as Karl has been building relationships in the community, some of our activities have been restored, and we have had the opportunity to meet and welcome some new people into our community. If you'd like more information or would like to be in touch for any reason, please use the contact information at the bottom of the second page.

AGAPE POOL PARTY



Summer seems like it was a long time ago. But this is a happy memory for us. On July 21, old and new friends joined together for a pool party. This is one of the special events Agape folks have enjoyed for years. This year we had some great food, met some new people, and had fun together. We also learned how the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.

AGAPE MONTHLY DINNER

Since April 2018 we began having regular community dinners again. The dual purpose of the dinners has been to re-connect with old friends of Agape and to give an opportunity for new friends, mostly from the uptown New Westminster area to join us for a meal and check us out.

We have been happy to reconnect with 15 individuals that we have rarely seen since our previous community dinners a few years back. It was great to have the chance to renew these relationships and re-establish a supportive presence for those who may not be ready to come to our services. It has also been a great opportunity to get to know new friends from the New West area. We have met at least 8 people totally new to us through the dinners.

Those who come to the dinner are invited to join us for the service afterward. We don't push this with anyone. Nevertheless, our numbers have been larger at the services on those dinner nights. We thank God for drawing them into a time of singing, prayer and learning more about Jesus.

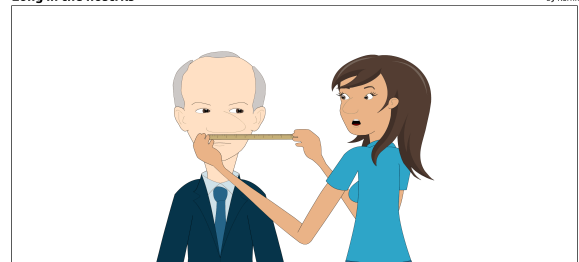
THE SUNDAY SERVICE & BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday services consist of from 12-26 people sitting in a circle in the lounge of the church. We sing worship songs from our song book, announce upcoming events and other things that are important to us, take an offering, look into God's word together, then pray as a group about the things that we are thankful for, and the things that concern us. Once a month we share communion together. In our Bible Study and Sunday services this year, we have studied the Lord's prayer, Spiritual Gifts and the Fruit of the Spirit. We are currently learning from the life of Abraham in our Bible studies and are examining the story of the prophet Samuel in our Sunday services.

At Agape, we try to make the teaching clear and accessible to all. Here is an example of the type of picture Karl uses to help make the meaning clear. A Hebrew word for "patient" is "long nostrilled," So Karl showed a woman measuring the nose of a man with long nostrils. He would need to be patient to allow someone to measure his nostrils like that!

Long in the nostrils

by Karmic



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AGAPE PEOPLE: RON



As you will see in the interview below, Ron has been involved with Agape for a long time and has lived in New Westminster for even longer. He loves to sing and knows more of the songs in our song book than anyone else in Agape. He is also a keen student of the Bible, and usually has questions or comments to contribute in our studies. He has always been willing to help in whatever ways he can, whether it is with setting up for our monthly dinners or being involved in the Christmas program.

Interviewer: How long have you been with Agape Fellowship?

Ron: Since 2000

Interviewer: What first brought you to Agape?

Well I hadn't been going to church for a few years, but I wanted to start again. I knew Shirley from a larger church I used to attend and had also got to know her husband Bob. They were both leaders at Agape. So, I thought that would be a good place to go. I also knew that Agape was smaller, and I liked smaller groups better than larger ones – so I started to attend Agape.

Interviewer: What is your favourite food?

Ron: Skinless, boneless chicken breasts fried in olive oil (Ron enjoys cooking his own meals).

Interviewer: What is your favourite T.V show?

Ron: I like "Mountain Man" also I like "Yukon Gold".

Interviewer: What are some of the jobs you have had in the past?

Ron: I have usually worked as a labourer. I have also done landscaping and worked in plywood and sawmills in the past.

Interviewer: What do you like about coming to Agape Fellowship?

Ron: It has given me fellowship and helped me to open up more. It also gives me an opportunity to help out somewhere. It has also given me a chance to play my harmonica.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Our annual Christmas program will be December 8, 6:00 pm. at First Presbyterian Church in New Westminster. Come and join us!



We would appreciate your prayers:

- that God would grow our leadership team
- that God would send us someone to help us with our music
- that God would continue to provide for our financial needs
- that God would lead us to the people who we could serve most effectively

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