

1993

UPDATES

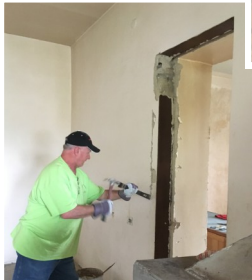
2018

PROJECT AGAPE

25 years in service

May-September 2018

MAY - BUILDING TEAM FROM NCC



Project AGAPE and the people it serves was blessed to have two building teams in 2018. The first team was from North Carolina Conference under the co-leadership of Bobby Fletcher and Jane Leechford. The team arrived on May 16th and after resting a day in Yerevan left for Berdzor right the next day. After a day of orientation and learning first-hand about the projects helping the people, the team started working on the house to be renovated: it belonged to a family of 6 children - 2 girls and 4 boys, whose mother died from cancer, whose 2 brothers were serving in the army and the third was getting ready to serve soon. Father was the only person working in the family with a miserable salary. The family was granted the house by the government of Artsakh for having six children. Previously the house belonged to the first mayor of Berdzor and was not in use for a long time, just short-term renters used it until the government bought it from the previous mayor and gave to this big family. The water tank placed under the roof - above the ceiling, cracked during the winter colds and the water flooded the rooms destroying the wooden flooring and building mold on the walls.

The team did a great work starting the most difficult and dangerous work - taking down the wallpaper and cleaning the mold off the walls with bleach, taking down the cracked old tiles, which was not an easy task to fulfill.

The kids of the family especially the two little ones - Samvel and Louisa together with the oldest daughter Gohar tried to help the team as much as they could, though sometimes it was a question whether Samvel was helping or making more troubles for the youngest in the team, Ellen, who kept saying most of the time when little Samvel was around: "Samvel, che, che Samvel"... which means in Armenian, "Samvel no, no Samvel", and which meant that Samvel was doing something dangerous, like climbing a high ladder or playing with dangerous tools.

The AGAPE staff was helping, too, replacing the old windows and doors, providing the team and the plasterer with the needed tools, supplies and construction material.

Inside this issue:

May - Building Team from NCC	1
May - Building Team from NCC	2
June - All the Projects Continue	3
July - Distribution of Humanitarian Aid	4
August - CEC & Guesthouse Water & Heating Systems Project	5
September - AGAPE Center Water Filtering Project	5

GOALS OF PROJECT AGAPE

Develop humanitarian and benevolent activities

Provide housing and livelihood through partnership with Fuller Center for Housing & Heifer International

Develop intentional spiritual partnership with those who travel to Armenia

Stand with Armenian people in their service to God;

a. Through partnering with:

-AGAPE hospital

-AGAPE Children's Home

-AGAPE Christian Education Center

b. Through partnering with: local Armenian community

c. Through partnering with Armenian Apostolic Church

MAY - BUILDING TEAM FROM NCC



The work on the house was not the only fulfillment of the team: in the short period of time the team managed visiting the children of the Children's Home and buying necessary appliances for the family after seeing the desperate condition of the old ones in the kitchen. The father of the family - Yasha - was not able to keep his tears, when he saw the new refrigerator, stove, washing machine and gas water heater. The old gas water heater produced tongues of flames while operating, and it was so dangerous to use.

The gas water heater producing tongues of flames



And the excitement of the kids was boundless... We believe, that their mother - Gayane, who, by the way, was a teacher at the AGAPE Christian Education Center before being diagnosed by cancer, sees from above and blesses those, who helped her family, her precious kids...

The visit of the team to the Children's Home was not an end in itself: the team had wonderful gifts for the children - toys, balls, school supplies and a very special thing - nice dresses made by the team members and some other United Methodist Women in their congregations. The young girls took those on and showed the beauty of the products of Love.

The team members played with the children, Jane Leechford had a special camera with her to take the photos of the children and give the pictures to them. All the children were given their pictures in different combinations: the kids alone, several kids together, a kid with a team member, several kids with a team member. The popular team member for that purpose was Ellen Beasley. The children had a great time with the team members enjoying each moment with them, playing, entertaining and photographing... Thank You, Dear Team Members! In these dark days and difficult times, Angels like you are very hard to find. You have helped us by every means possible, and we thank you for this. Angels like you are a ray of hope that will drag those who are drowned in the darkness. You drag them into the light and give them Ray of Hope to continue in this life. **THANK YOU!!!**



The three-leg chair and the mold on the wall

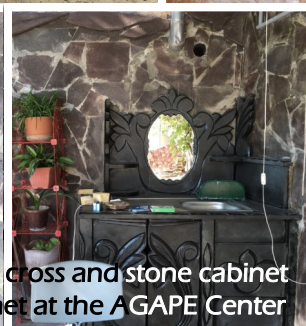
The aunt of the children is making jangal bread for the team - a bread filled with 7 different greens, a heavenly food for vegetarians



The nice dresses - products of Love

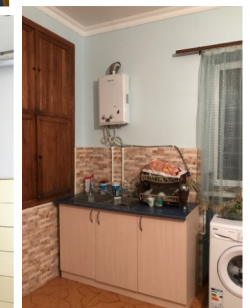
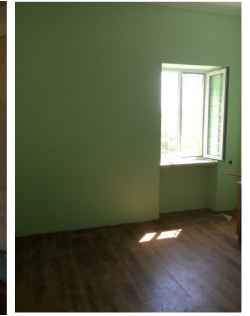


JUNE - ALL THE PROJECTS CONTINUE



June was a month of continuation of all the projects started before and the house renovation project launched by the NCC building team. The mason continued the pavement of the AGAPE Center with the AGAPE staff helping him. The plasterer had already completed the renovation of the Christian Education Center and the children of Berdzor had started the classes at the CEC. He had also finished the renovation of the distribution room between the two big section of the warehouse where the distribution of humanitarian aid was being done from. So now he was able to switch to the House Renovation project continuing the project started by the May team. The AGAPE staff and the builders worked at full capacity, as it was necessary to complete and have everything ready for the important event - the 25th Anniversary of Project AGAPE in October.

Before and After



The beautiful stone cross and stone cabinet ... yes ... stone cabinet at the AGAPE Center

JULY - DISTRIBUTION OF HUMANITARIAN AID

The newly renovated distribution room vs.



the same room before the renovation



The July distribution was carried out from the newly renovated distribution room, the gray colors of which had vanished after the renovation turning into nice pink color. Entering the room even the sad expression on the faces of the people depressed under the pressure of needs and worries of everyday life faded turning into faces shining with smile and light.

In 2018 Project AGAPE received four 40' containers - 2 from the North Carolina Conference and 2 from the Western North Carolina Conference. The first two containers full of Christmas Boxes arrived in March of 2018, just in time to continue the distribution of the Christmas Boxes to the children of the rest of the villages in Kashatagh region of Artsakh. The third container arrived in July and the fourth container arrived in the second half of December of 2018, so it was not distributed in 2018 reducing the number of the families receiving aid in 2018. That was the reason only 520 families received humanitarian aid in 2018.

There were new and used bedding, new and used clothing, clothing accessories, new and used coats, health and hygiene supplies, kitchenware and household supplies, suitcases, medical supplies, new shoes, new toys, school and sewing supplies, and warehouse supplies in the containers received in 2018. All the goods worth of \$84,118 (except the warehouse supplies) were delivered to 520 families or to 2,100 people in need living in Berdzor and in the rural communities. About 5,000 children of the region received 8,289 Christmas boxes worth of \$105,376: this number includes the Christmas boxes delivered to the newborns who usually receive 3-5 Christmas boxes and the Christmas Boxes of those children who, for some reason, missed getting those in the previous year or years. And the number of Christmas Boxes sent by both Conferences made it possible doing this!

The hospital was provided with 965 pounds of medical supplies.

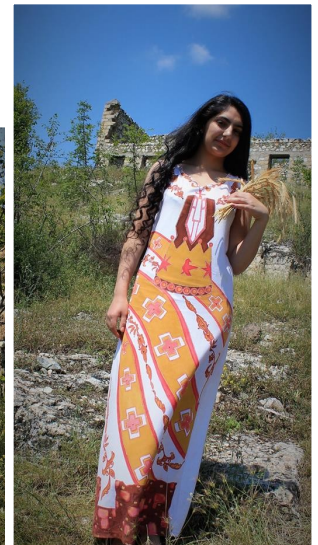
The two warehouses of Project AGAPE in Yerevan and Berdzor were equipped with 2 pallet jacks, 1 platform hand truck, various tools, work gloves, dust masks, trash bags. The Ford truck received a new bigger/higher camper shell giving more space for taking more Christmas boxes during one trip to the villages. The Art School received Sewing Supplies and the students there made the nice dresses presented on these pictures representing the 12 capitals of historical Armenia: they won an art competition in Artsakh. Many kids in Berdzor and villages received nice dresses made by the UM Women of different churches.

This beautiful girl sent her pictures as an appreciation for the clothing she received from Project AGAPE



Words of blessings again and again had filled up the air and flew to those, who had sent all the goods very much needed by the people who struggle to live and keep the land belonging to them. "God bless those, who sent this aid, what would we do without their help?" these are the words the AGAPE staff is used to hear during all the distributions.

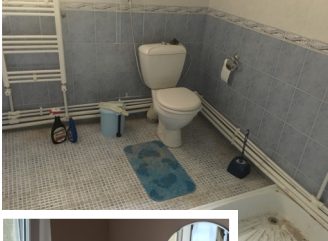
THANK YOU !!!



AUGUST - CEC & Guesthouse Water & Heating Systems Projects



August was a busy month for some internal projects at the AGAPE Center. In 2001 when the guesthouse hosting the building teams and different guests related to the Project and to the region, was renovated after the fire, there were no plastic pipes to build the water supply system, so iron pipes were used for that purpose and those rusted in 15+years old guesthouse and 18-years old CEC building causing problems in both buildings. Besides, there was no natural gas at the time when the building renovation was in progress, so the only heating means of the building were the electric oil radiators. The same issues were at the Christian Education Center building. During the times when all the rooms were used by the staff members and/or the guests of the region and were heated by electricity, the electric wiring of the building was strong enough to sustain that capacity, but the wires out of the building supported by the electric company didn't have that capacity, besides heating by electricity is much more expensive than by the natural gas. The solution to these two problems in both buildings were building a new water supply system by plastic pipes and a new centralized heating system using the natural gas which was now available in Berdzor. The funds provided by the Board of Project AGAPE and the Myers Park UMC helped to give life to these two important projects. The skilled staff of project AGAPE built both systems saving money to build a heating system in the small staff house, as well, which was not included in the project.



SEPTEMBER - AGAPE Center Water Filtering Project



The color of the water after heavy rains

Project AGAPE Center is one of the three places in Berdzor that has 24-hour water supply, the other two are the AGAPE Hospital and the AGAPE Children's Home. The residents of the town get only 2-hour water supply per day or sometimes ... even in every 2 days.

The reason is the old water supply system of the town of Berdzor built in 1960-80s and its poor condition: which got worse during the war: the water main between the wells and the daily regulation reservoirs was in an emergency state; approximately 80% of the internal distribution network was in dilapidated state. The distribution network pipeline was installed only 20-30cm deep in the ground, which resulted in freezing of water in winter. Three of the six 50+years old pumps installed in the wells were out of service; the other three were frequently malfunctioning. These issues resulted in the loss of a great amount of water - making it very problematic to provide the residents with sufficient amount of potable water. In the last couple of years efforts were made to improve that system, but that "improvement" made the quality of the water even worse... Without going into the details, just one fact - after heavy rains the water was dirty and not usable even for laundry.

A decision was made by the AGAPE Board to provide funds for installing a filtering system at the AGAPE Center. After assessments and negotiations with one of the filtering companies getting the filters from the US, a filtering system was installed at the AGAPE Center. The water filtering system was installed in one of the rooms of the main AGAPE office building and the filtered water flows to the AGAPE Center providing all the buildings - the guesthouse, the main office building, the Christian Education Center and the staff house with super clean filtrated and enriched with important minerals water. Anyone in the town can come and get filtered water if they want and many in the neighborhood do that. The water analysis of the filtered water showed that by its qualities the water is similar even to the distilled water...

