



A Visit to Agape House

“Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring which will provide him with life-giving water and give him eternal life.” (John 4: 13-14)

Paul Lee

The Core Group Members of Faith in Action visited Agape House on a rainy day morning in October. The day was wet and misty, but the reception at the House was warm and unforgettable. Pat and Vicki, the supervisors of the House, accepted our request of visiting Agape without hesitation. They spared an hour with us walking from room to room and introduced to us different equipment, facilities and stored items for the ministry work. The visit really widened our view on how Agape Street Ministry works on the young girls and helps them get off the street.

Agape consists of three voluntary sections: Agape Street Ministry, Agape House and Hope Faith House. Agape Street Ministry is a Catholic Faith based Outreach to women who work as prostitutes in the area of Downtown Eastside Vancouver and Surrey, B.C. Agape House is the Main Office for the Street Ministry and Hospital Ministry. It also works as the Referral and Pregnancy Center. Hope-Faith House is a Catholic Faith based “House of Healing” in Surrey, for women who choose to journey with Jesus towards freedom from addiction. Volunteers of Agape started their work with no experience and confidence, but with ‘a huge bank account of faith and the unwavering belief (Penny Rogers - the Agape’s Commissioning Mass and 7th Year Anniversary Speech) According to Pat and Vicki’s information, Agape members continuously pray that God’s will would be with the ministry, and miraculous

things started to happen. First, more and more volunteers joined the ministry. Then, anonymous donors appeared with monetary support so that the dream of Hope-Faith House and the Main Office became a reality.

Agape still needs a great number of volunteers to work on different areas in the ministry.

Every night and several days, established teams of 3-4 people walk a specific route from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and bring the message of Jesus’ love to the ladies of street, in Vancouver and in Surrey, by listening, praying and being friendly with them. At the Agape House at Keefer Street. Volunteers are involved with Agape Street activities, and they minister to the women in prayer and activities. They sit and talk one-to-one with the girls in a safe environment. They pack candy bags and scripture cards as little gifts of love. It is estimated that Agape volunteers distribute 30,000 candy bags each year.

On the street, Agape begin to see the fruits of their labor. More and more girls would run to the volunteers for comfort and make request for special prayers. More volunteers come to do birthday bags, and join the hospital and prison visits. Pat and Vicki from Agape have accepted the invitation from the Faith in Action and they will come to share with us in the First Event scheduled on Wednesday/ Saturday, December 1 / December 4 at 6:00 p.m./ 10:15 a.m. respectively (identical sessions). All parishioners are cordially invited to join Pat and Vicki’ sharing.