

Words Of Life

August 2018

A Scared Young Couple

I want an abortion. I do not want to have this baby. I never wanted to have kids, and I don't want to be pregnant. "No kids ever." Why did I let him talk me into this? At a weak moment, I gave in and now I regret it.

I've worked hard and finished school and now I want to spend my money on myself. I don't want to be a mother. I don't want to be dependent on others to help me. I want my time for myself. I want to build my business and have everything I have ever wanted. He wanted a baby, not me.

Now here I am, a Christian, and I want an abortion. Worse yet, God sent this baby to me so, "I guess He will be mad if I kill it."

We listened as this young woman poured her heart out to us. The pain, confusion, anger, and fear just kept coming. We encouraged her to slow down and take some time to make her decision and seek what God would want her to do. There was no reason to be in a hurry to make this decision. She needed to be sure that her final decision went along with her own values and beliefs. She left that first day stating she would definitely abort.

Several months later, she finally returned to our clinic for her follow-up visit. She told us she had changed her mind and was going to keep her baby because she got pregnant on purpose and she "did not have a right to kill it." She still did not want to be a mother, but she would rely on her boyfriend and her family to help her with the baby.

This time her family was by her side during the ultrasound. A quiet excitement filled the room as this young mom watched her baby move inside her womb. Her body relaxed and her face lit up. She was relieved and feeling much better now. She tells us she will parent her baby.

What an honor it is to empower a scared, young couple with God's truth about life - enabling them to make a fully informed choice and choose LIFE!

From a Director's Heart

Why I Serve

Chad, Amber, & Amelia

Pastor's Corner

Volunteer Orientation

Walk For Life

New Board Members

Back To School

Walk for Life

Bluegrass & BBQ



Greetings from Agape House!

Wow! My mind is filled with a plethora of thoughts as I pen this ministry update...

- 1) Planning for our Second Annual #goals event to be held September 17th-21st at UTM for high school juniors is well underway. We expect over 750 students to attend and we need more volunteers to help. This very high-energy event is making an impact in the lives of students at a critical time in their life.
- 2) One of our abortion-minded patients continues to seek our services as she is struggling with this life changing decision. It's amazing to see how God intervenes in bringing just the right volunteer to help her that she needs for her specific situation. God is at work right before us.
- 3) Our medical director, a volunteer physician, and several staff recently visited and observed another clinic outside our state. Now we are evaluating the possibility of additional clinical services in order to best reach those who are making an abortion decision.
- 4) Opportunity to meet with students at UTM and Bethel are coming up August 18th & 27th as we host booths at their student fairs. We will also be providing educational presentations for college students in a variety of settings this fall.
- 5) New billboards went up last week just in time for the new school year. This continues to be an effective way in reaching those who are making an abortion decision. We are most grateful for the volunteer who provided the expense for these billboards.
- 6) Our upcoming **Walk for Life** is scheduled for **September 22nd**. We need lots of walkers to participate in this important fund-raising event. Walk for Life brochures will be available at your church and at Agape House the last week of August or you can register online at agapehousefriend.com.

As you can see, there is a lot going on and this is only a bird's eye view of all that is happening in and around Agape House.

This leads me to ask you a question.

Would you like to make a real impact in the life of someone else? There are numerous ways for you to be a part of what God is doing. It all starts with Volunteer Orientation. There has never been a better time to get involved in missions in your own back yard! I encourage you to contact Barbara today and join us for this timely Volunteer Orientation, Friday night & Saturday, August 24 & 25. (Barbara@agapehousefriend.com or 731-588-0339). Hope to see you soon!

Yours for LIFE.
Linda DeBoard, CEO

For as the body without the spirit is dead, faith without works is dead also.
James 2:26

WHY I SERVE.

Lois and Bill Sylvia will be married 48 years this October and have been blessed with 2 sons: Edward (and wife, Michele) of Atwater, CA, and Thomas (and wife, Maryellen) of all-over-the-USA as they travel and homeschool. Their youngest is a daughter, Sharon (and husband, Lee) of McAlester, OK. They have been blessed with 7 grandsons and 7 granddaughters.

Lois' parents pastored and loved her to Christ at the age of 7. Because of their influence in sharing the Good News of Jesus and their belief that every life is important too, and loved by, the Lord, she shared those truths with her children as she taught them and led a group of 40 homeschooling families. During this time, beginning in 1986, her family began participating in the Walk For Life at a pregnancy care center in California.

Lois thought that she might slow down a little when children were grown and the nest was empty, but God gave her a new passion and purpose. He has a way of doing that. Hallelujah! She received a call from the pregnancy care center asking if she would consider leading a group to establish a pro-life ministry in another city. From there the Lord took over and it picked up speed. The Holy Spirit can breathe life into anything He wants to accomplish! As a result, for the next 14 years Lois was either a development director, executive director, interim director/consultant, or North American Mission Board/Mission Service Corps Missionary/volunteer at a pro-life medical clinic.

In 2016 a new season of life began when Lois and Bill moved to Christmasville, TN. Once again she asked, "Is it time to slow down?" The answer was, "Are you kidding? I'm not through with you yet, and never will be."

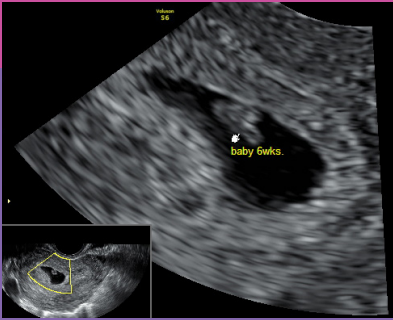
God has brought her to Agape House as a Patient Coordinator. She says that this is the most professional, efficient, patient-loving, God-honoring clinic that she has served at. "I love the fellowship among the staff and volunteers. The presence of the Lord just spills over into the services that are offered to the young women and men who enter this place. I am so blessed and excited to be a part of this "ministry of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:18) -Lois Sylvia



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Chad, Amber, & Amelia



Chad and I met in college. We worked together and liked each other from day one. The summer before my senior year at UT Martin, we started talking more. Chad told me about his past and his dreams of the future, and I told him of mine. It wasn't long before we started dating and things became serious for us. We are very different people but have most of the same core values and beliefs in life. However, we were both on a destructive path. Mine started about a year prior to his. I had just gotten out of a serious relationship and was always the 'good girl', the one that younger siblings could look up to, the one 'that never did wrong' – I grew tired of that storyline. I wanted to be a good person, but I also wanted to know was I a good person when no one was watching, or is it just a lie?

I began going out more. I had just turned 21, so drinking was a new, exciting thing. I dated more, because all I had ever had was serious relationships. I did this for about a year until I started dating Chad. When we first started talking I didn't think it'd be anything serious. I thought he was way out of my league (and later found he thought the same!), but we found we had a lot of things in common.

Chad's mother had him when she was sixteen and his father was never present. He has always accepted that but knew that when he became a father, he'd always be there for his children.

My mother also left at a young age. I was four when she walked out. She'd call from time to time and arrange days to see me. Half the time she wouldn't show up, and it would crush me. By the time I was in high school, I grew used to it and understood that my father was more than enough for me and that I would never be the parent my mother modeled to me.

It wasn't long after Chad and I became serious that we became pregnant. We were both terrified, but Chad was there every step of the way. After taking two pregnancy tests, I made an appointment with the medical clinic. I had a business card that was given to me in my sophomore year during a college fair. I kept the card, thinking I would refer someone if they ever needed it – I had no idea I would be the one to need it!

I immediately made an appointment for the following week. We had both decided not to tell our parents until it was confirmed. After meeting with the staff at the medical clinic, we had found out I was already 6 weeks along! They educated us on options and outlets and 'next steps'.

Now, something about me you should know – I have NEVER supported abortion. But when this news hit me, I started to consider it. My life was changing way quicker than I ever imagined and I was not ready. Chad was 100% against abortion, but he let me research it, and take my time to think for myself.

But then, we had an ultrasound and after that, there was no looking back. As soon as I heard my baby's heartbeat, I knew there was NO WAY I would be the one to silence it.

During our wait for our baby, we grew stronger as a couple. From our history, I knew Chad would always be here for her and me. Though we were still in college, I would be graduating soon, and he was only a year behind me. We did not know where the money would come from, or how any of our baby items would be purchased. So, we agreed to start the S.T.E.P.S. program, in hopes of receiving a baby bed through it.

During this program, we met with Tia, one of the sweetest ladies you will ever meet. She listened to our story and helped us plan out our future without being judgmental. We let her know when things were happening for us, like new jobs, new baby items—everything – and she was always genuinely excited for our progress. We both had supportive friends and family, but the medical clinic was a great, objective support system. They helped us prepare ourselves for announcing our unplanned pregnancy to everyone.

Amelia was born on Monday morning at 7:55am on June 27, 2016 – just two days shy of her due date. She is in perfect health and the joy of our lives. Today, Chad, Amelia, and I could not be happier. Chad and I will be married in July of this year, and Amelia loves reading books, learning new words, and listening to music. Her smile and big hugs keep us going day in and day out.

At the end of the day neither of us would change a thing about our story. God knew the path each of us was on. He also knew that we would only change for one thing: our child. In a way, Amelia saved



**Hodges Chapel
Missionary
Baptist Church**

Pastor's Corner

How long have you been a pastor and what is your favorite part of being a pastor?
I received the call of the Lord late in life, I was ordained August 26, 2006. I was a bi-vocational pastor and moved to Hickman, Ky. It wasn't long before I was called to pastor Sassafras Baptist Church and then I moved to Uniontown, PA with my job. While in Pennsylvania I was the Evangelistic Pastor at Liberty Baptist Church.

I received a calling to move back to Hickman, Ky, so I resigned from my job and moved back to Hickman (no job/no church). I moved back on April 4, 2014 and have been at Hodges Chapel since April 5, 2014. Over all I have been pastoring for about 6.5 – 7 years. Also, serving the Lord and ministering to His people would be my favorite part of being a pastor.

Why do you make it a priority to support Agape House?

This is a much needed ministry, working with girls/ladies to help them make sense of what they are going through. Showing other options rather than aborting their baby.

What does Sanctity of Human Life mean to you?

Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end. Under no circumstance does anyone have the right to directly destroy an innocent human being.

Do you have any advice for individuals or organizations thinking of partnering with Agape House?

I would encourage them to do whatever they could, physically and / or financially. This ministry not only saves lives of the unborn, but also ministers to both ladies and men.

Is there anything about you or your life you would like to share?

I really enjoy deer hunting. Hunting gives me time to get alone with the Lord in my quiet place, just me and Him.

Volunteer Orientation

You are invited and encouraged to prayerfully consider attending our upcoming

Volunteer Orientation scheduled for

August 24th & 25th

Who knows what God has in store for you? We look forward to meeting you!

For more information or to register contact

Barbara Mullins at 731-588-0339 or barbara@agapehousefriend.com



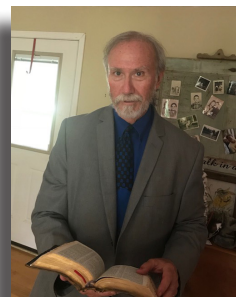
Pamela Adams

Agape House Board Member

Pam Adams is a self employed business owner, born and raised in West TN. Agape House's mission is very personal for Pam. Being the youngest of 4 children, she grew up in a loving family who was in the ministry. Her father pastored many local churches. Making the choice to choose life when she found out she was pregnant in the 1970s wasn't an easy one. However, it was one choice she personally never debated. Although having a child at a young age had it's challenges, the blessings have been countless since then.



Pam is a widow of her beloved late husband, Rick Adams. She has one daughter, Beth Warren who is married to Todd Warren and lives in Jackson. She has twin grandchildren, Jenna Faith and Nash, who are her pride and joy! Pam looks forward to reaching others with her testimony at Agape House.



Gary Smithson

Agape House Board Member

A short Biography of a "long and winding road"

Thank you for this opportunity for me to tell a story - a true one.

I am a Christian. I was born to Helen and W.M. Smithson approximately 68 years ago. I am happily married to Mariallie Smithson who loves God, me, and Ole Miss football. We have a dog, Charlie, who is a golden doodle wheaton terrier, or as Mariallie says, a mutt.

I am a licensed Alcohol and Drug counselor, a tree farmer, and a minister. I have been preaching for approximately 50 years, but have been at Big Sandy Church of Christ for the past 28 years.

I feel exceedingly blessed. I had loving, believing parents. I have a wife that loves me, children and grandchildren that love me and two dogs that love me. The second dog is Grizzly, who actually belongs to a neighbor, but stays more with me than at his home.

I want to serve the Lord any way I can and one of these ways is by being on the board of Agape House. I am very grateful to Fred Hancock for encouraging me to do this, and also Mariallie, who truly loves volunteering for Agape House.

May you continue to do the tremendous work you do, and may your days be filled with joy, love, and laughter. May God continue to bless you richly.



It's time! We are ready to embark on another wonderful and educational year in the schools. Last year we were able to teach the sexual risk avoidance educational program to over 3,500 students. It truly is amazing to be able to educate our future generations with truth! As we welcome this opportunity we also see needs of this branch of ministry. The

educational team needs candy for the end of the week review bags and individually wrapped snacks for the reward given to those who complete the week's assignments.

Also, as we gear up for a new year we begin planning our 2nd annual #goals event. Last year our educational program hosted over 500 students for a high-energy, fun-filled day of learning. Each day the students were presented skits, games, personal life stories and a panel of professionals that provided factual information to set the record straight and to debunk myths about sexual health.

If you are interested in volunteering this year please contact John Hamrick at [731-588-0339](tel:731-588-0339).



Why Walk?

The funds raised directly support the every day missions of the ministry! Imagine the lives that you could save and make a difference in by raising funds with your friends and family in 2018!

Come Celebrate LIFE!

September 22nd, 2018

Martin Recreation Complex

Registration will begin at 8:30am

Walk begins at 9am.

EDUCATION TEAM NEEDS



Bluegrass & BBQ

On June 23, 2018, the Knights of Columbus, council #3837 hosted bluegrass and country band Classy and Grassy for an Agape House benefit concert. Several concert attendees were able to enjoy the beautiful weather, live music, and delicious barbecue plate dinners at the Obion Co. Fair Grounds.

Lead guitarist and vocalist Cash Singleton, 8, and brother Cutter Singleton, 11, were recently featured on NBC's Little Big Shots with comedian Steve Harvey. The band, event sponsors and members of the Knights of Columbus were gracious in donating their time, talent, and resources for this wonderful event!

We are so grateful to the Knights of Columbus for RISING UP and raising \$3000 to help Agape House uphold the sanctity of human life.



Featured left to right Agape House's Autumn Rain Smith, Linda DeBard with Knights of Columbus members Paul Cunningham, Donnie Beard, and

Quarterly Volunteer Spotlight

We are thankful for your service to the ministry!

1st Quarter

Reta Hancock
Serving 9 years!

2nd Quarter

Becky Lister
Serving 6 years!

3^d Quarter

Mariallie Smithson
Serving 2 years!



Thank You

Mission Statement

Agape House is a Christ-centered ministry committed to upholding the sanctity of human life through education, medical services, and spiritual restoration.



Agape House, P.O. Box 473, Martin 38237 ~ 731-588-0339 ~ www.AgapeHouseFriend.com

Current Needs

Staplers
Index Cards
Sharpies
Toilet Paper
Zip-Lock Bags - Sandwich Size
13 Gallon Trash Bags
4 Gallon Trash Bags
Copy Paper
#6^{3/4} Size Envelopes
#10 Envelopes

January - July 2018 Statistics

Initial Patient / Ongoing Client Visits	172
Pregnancy Test Given 48 (+) ; 18 (-)	66
Abortion Risk Patients with (+) test	19
Abortion Risk Patients with final state intentions to carry	8
Abortion Risk Patients who aborted	4
Abortion Risk Patients who miscarried	3
Abortion Risk Patients with unknown outcomes	4
Patients Receiving STI Testing	52
Spiritual Discussion	100
Bibles Given	14
Students Attending Abstinence Education Program	1628

Medical Director

Dr. Karen Davidson, MD

Staff

Linda DeBoard - CEO
Amanda Hicks, RDMS - Clinic Services Director
Barbara Mullins, RT (R) - Client Services Director
Autumn Rain Smith - Director of Development
Maci Reaves - Director of Finance
John Hamrick - Education Team Director
Donna Middlebrook - Education Presenter

Board of Directors

Mark Dowdy - Chairman
Denise Mathis - Secretary
Beverly Carr, RN - Treasurer
Kay Wilkes - Advisory Board
Fred Hancock - Member
James Burdette - Member
Pamela Adams - Member
Gary Smithson - Member
Linda DeBoard - CEO

Financial Gifts

In Memory of:

Randall Ricketts
Randall Ricketts
Randall Ricketts
Randall Ricketts
Randall Ricketts
Randall Ricketts
Gerrie Cavin
Sue Griffin
Nadia Kimsey

By Ms. Amanda Lamberth
By Mr. Greg Sinclair
By Mr. & Mrs. William Powell
By Dr. John Howard
By Mr. & Mrs. Todd Hampton
By MPR Concession Workers
By Anonymous
By Anonymous
By Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kimsey

In Honor of:

Christie Ricketts
Margo Villar

By Mr. & Mrs. William Powell
By Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kimsey

GIVE ONLINE >>

Great News!

We are now offering an electronic version of our newsletter *Words of Life!* To register you may visit www.agapehousefriend.com/media/index.html. You may also call the office at 731-588-0339 to register!



Medical Volunteers

Dr. John Howard, MD
Lauren Jackson, PharmD
Emilee Ray - PharmD
Morgan Stone, NP

Office Support

Pat Harmon
Wanda Mullins

Patient Coordinators

Jane Ogg
Becky Lister
Lois Sylvia
Mariallie Smithson
Penny Petty

Resource Coordinator

Paula Myers

Renew Coordinators

Angela Hughes
Martha Hopper

S.T.E.P.S. Coordinators

Halina Brown
Reta Hancock
Lois Blackwell

Handyman

Larry Mullins

Prayer Coordinators

Jane Ogg

Support Services

Judy Mehan
Marvin Downing
Sherry Hatchel
Chad Jimerson
Betsy Duckworth
Denise Burdette