

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING *Agapé*



JUNE 2016



Jennifer Dean, MA, LPC-S
Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor

Dear Friends of Agape,

It is with mixed emotions that I write these words. Due to unexpected family health issues I have made the decision to step down as Executive Director of Agape Christian Counseling. It has been a great honor and a pleasure serving as Executive Director of Agape. This was a difficult

decision to make but I am confident this is the right thing to do for Agape and for my family.

Agape has an amazing staff and a wonderful Board of Directors serving this community. Through these past few months I have watched this team of people trust the Lord through a time of unexpected change. Galina Olivera-Celdran, our previous Clinical Director has been a stabilizing force to the work of Agape and it is with great excitement that I pass on the baton of leadership to Galina Olivera-Celdran in the role of Executive Director.

Thank you to each of you, friends of Agape, for the support you offered me as I served as Executive Director. And now, please join me in welcoming Galina as we all work together to provide emotional and spiritual support to those who are struggling.

CLINICAL STAFF

GALINA OLIVERA-CELDRAN

PHD, LPCS, LCAS

Executive Director/ Therapist

Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor

JENNIFER H. DEAN, MA, LPCS

Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor

ROBYN NICHOLSON, MA, LPC, NBCC

Licensed Professional Counselor

ZOI SALIGA, MED, LMFT

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

BLAKE CLEMONS, MA, LPCA

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

MISTY LAWRENCE, MA, LPCA, LMFTA

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist Associate

STEPHANIE ROOFNER, MA, LPCA

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

KATHRYN TRICE, MA, LPCA

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

JOHN WHITE, MA, LPCA

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

HOLLIS JOHNSON, BA

Clinical Intern

OUR GOD IS AT WORK

It has been obvious that God continues to be at work in Agape! The new logo and website along with the video online, give us a new look! There are other changes as well. Last year, Ann Noonan, our founder, stepped down as our Executive Director. She established a solid foundation and had been the driving force and “face” of Agape. We knew the adjustment would be a hard one. However, the Lord provided the perfect person in Jennifer Dean to take on the Executive Director position and lead us through the transition process with grace and strong leadership. What we did not know was that this year Jennifer would face family health needs and would find it necessary to resign as Executive Director to focus on her family. We are so appreciative of all Jennifer has done for Agape. She will remain with us as a therapist.

Don’t we serve an awesome God? He knew this would occur and had already prepared the ideal person to take on this role! Galina Olivera-Celdran had worked at Agape in the past, had pursued her PhD, gained further experience elsewhere and since joining us last year has been invaluable as our Clinical Director. Galina knows and loves Agape, is gifted in administration, is respected by all who know her. She leads with wisdom that is evident because of her dependence on the Lord. The Board of Directors of Agape is honored to announce the appointment of Galina Olivera-Celdran as our next Executive Director, effective May 30, 2016. She has been a gift at a time when we needed her leadership and is wonderfully qualified to be our Executive Director.

Please continue to pray for Galina in this new role and for Jennifer as she meets the demands she currently faces. Pray also for Agape as we experience some exciting new opportunities! We have opened a new office in Myers Park and have added two therapists. Misty Lawrence will be working primarily out of the Huntersville office and Robyn Nicholson comes back to Agape with a focus of working with the survivors of human trafficking that we are now privileged to serve.

Congratulations to Galina and to all Agape therapists for the work being done to serve our community.

*Ruth Snyder, Chair
Agape Christian Counseling Board of Directors*

DONATIONS: Donate to help Agape continue our work with Human Trafficking victims and individuals, couples, and families who have lower incomes. You may mail a check payable to “Agape Silent Samaritan Fund” to Agape Christian Counseling, 2124 Crown Centre Drive, Charlotte, NC 28227. To contribute by credit card, please visit our web site at www.agapechristiancounseling.org. Agape Christian Counseling is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and a tax receipt will be issued by mail for your donation.



Galina Olivera-Celdran, PhD, LPCS, LCAS
Executive Director/Therapist
Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor

Dear Agape Friends,

Our logo with the dove conveys the message of the Holy Spirit working in and through us to bring about the changes that God desires for our community. In John 3:8, the work of the Holy Spirit is compared to the wind: we are completely oblivious of it until we notice the impact it makes on our environment, as in watching the ocean waves or hearing the rustling of the leaves.

We have seen God working in the same way at Agape by giving us unique opportunities to do counseling with victims of human trafficking and providing us with counselors who are uniquely equipped and gifted to do this work. Many of the victims that we serve are young women that have been forced into the sex trade, with the average age of entry into prostitution being between 12 and 14 years old. Sadly, North Carolina is ranked as the twelfth worst state for human trafficking with the majority of victims being US citizens.

Currently, we provide individual and group counseling services to several agencies dedicated to helping sexually trafficked women in the area: *Lily Pad Haven, On Eagles Wings Ministries, and Redeeming Joy*. We are honored to come alongside the women who are referred to us and help them recover from traumatic experiences and through the process of professional Christian counseling begin to experience restored lives. It is a life or death choice for many of the women; if they return to their former lifestyle, on average they will lose their lives within seven years.

Without counseling, adequate resources, and continuing support, the potential for relapse is very high. Would you partner with us by praying for these clients? Would you also prayerfully consider a financial contribution to our Human Trafficking fund so we can continue providing counseling to this population?

Thank you for being faithful in your support for the ministry of Agape Christian Counseling. We cannot do it without you!

Serving together,