

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING Agapé



July 2016

Our mission is to provide professional counseling from a Christian perspective to bring about healing to individuals, couples, and families in the greater Charlotte area



Robyn Nicholson, MA, LPC
Licensed Professional Counselor

AGAPE'S MYERS PARK LOCATION

I am excited to be a part of Agape Christian Counseling again. After getting some valuable experience working in the addiction field and then starting up my own practice, I have returned as a therapist to Agape. I am working in our satellite office in the Myers Park area of Charlotte. I started my journey into counseling when I was working as a staff member of the Pregnancy Resource Center in Charlotte. I realized after several years working with women who were considering abortion or who had had abortions that I needed more training and tools in my toolbox if I was to be an effective counselor. So, after being accepted at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, I pursued a Master of Arts in



Christian Counseling and became licensed by the state of NC. I work with individuals and couples experiencing a variety of challenges in their lives—*anxiety, depression, relationship conflict, trauma and grief.* I am trained in EMDR, a therapy specifically for the treatment of trauma. I also serve as the primary therapist for the work Agape is doing with survivors of human sex trafficking. It is challenging work, but we are seeing the captives set free! I believe that God's desire for His people is that they *walk in freedom* (Galatians 5:1) and the knowledge of their identity in Christ. It is my joy as a counselor to walk with people in their journey toward that freedom.



Myers Park Office

I have been happily married to Howard for 37 years. We have 3 grown children and 5 extra-special grandchildren! I enjoy knitting, gardening and opening our home to family and friends.

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
Licensed Professional Counselor

Zoi Saliga, MEd, LMFT
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Blake Clemmons, MA, LPCA
Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

Misty Lawrence, MA, LMFTA, LPCA
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist Associate
Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

Stephanie Roofner, MA, LPCA
Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

John White, MA, LPCA
Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

Save the Date

FRIENDS OF AGAPÉ DINNER

Thursday, October 20, 2016

6:30-8:30 pm

Calvary Church — Crown Room
5801 Pineville–Matthews Road / Charlotte, NC 28226

We would like to tell you more about the work Agape has been doing providing counseling to Charlotte area survivors of human trafficking.

For more information please call

704-849-0144

Email - Office@ncagape.org

Website - www.agapechristiancounseling.org

PHONE 704-849-0144
EMAIL office@ncagape.org
WEB www.agapechristiancounseling.org

MAIN OFFICE:
2124 Crown Centre Drive- STE 400
Charlotte, NC 28227

MYERS PARK OFFICE:
522 Moravian Lane
Charlotte, NC 28207

HUNTSVILLE OFFICE:
14636 Reese Boulevard
Huntersville, NC 28078



Making a Difference Takes Many

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me.
Matthew 25:40



Galina Olivera-Celdran, PhD, LPCA, LCAS
Executive Director/Therapist
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It can feel good to know that we have made a difference in another person's life, even in a small way. Some of those differences are tangible and can be easily measured, like seeing our children smile and giggle because they enjoy playing at a park we have taken them to. We may have had an interaction with someone and tried to help them but we often never know the

impact of that act on this side of eternity. Scripture tells us that even the simplest acts done to help someone in need will be rewarded in heaven; such as offering someone *thirsty a drink of water, inviting a stranger in, visiting those who are sick or in prison* (Matthew 10:42; 25:35-40).

I explain to my clients that my job as a counselor is to help them not need me anymore. A few are surprised and will tell me "that isn't good for your job security." They are probably right, but in essence, that is the way counselors help people—we help give our clients the skills they need to solve their own problems.

The impact of the counseling process may not be seen right away. As a counselor, I see many people who have tried and exhausted other resources and then expect me to use a magic wand to make their problems disappear during the first session. There are times I wish I did have magic wand not only for my clients but also for myself. However, it usually takes more than one counseling session to help someone move from hurting emotionally to experiencing joy, from conflict to understanding, or from constant worry to peace. More is needed than even a skilled and experienced counselor can offer to bring about healing from past trauma and abuse.

A community of loving people is essential: counselors, pastors, friends, family, and coworkers are needed to walk alongside, support and pray for those experiencing the struggles of life. God has made us different and unique for a reason: we like doing things that we are good at, therefore as Frederick Buechner put it, **"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."** As counselors, we find deep gladness in connecting with others and ultimately leading them to the One who can satisfy their hunger for love, belonging, and wholeness. We see ourselves as tools in God's hands to help bring about the changes and healing He desires for each of His children. The results of our work may not be evident immediately, but we rejoice inwardly as we see a couple holding hands as they walk out of session, or see the face of a woman who has been depressed experience the joy of discovering her true worth as a child of God. We may also have the privilege of knowing a child with ADHD is beginning to succeed in school, or see a woman who is a survivor of human trafficking start rebuilding her life. Making this kind of a difference in people's lives is possible only because so many people are involved in making it happen. Agape Christian Counseling's counselors, support staff, Board of Directors, and the members of our volunteer committees have unique skills and gifts that bring meaningful contributions that help us serve our clients.

We have many people who support us prayerfully and financially and we cannot thank you enough if you are one of them. However, if you have not been involved with the ministry of Agape Christian Counseling would you consider using a gift, a skill, or other resources to help us make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and couples in our area. The list below shows of some ways that you can help—we would love to hear from you. Please, complete and detach the following form and mail it to us or send it by email to office@ncagape.org. We are excited about the opportunity to serve our Lord with you!

Agape is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization—

How can you help?

- Prayer Support (*we will send monthly prayer updates*)
- Financial Contribution to our scholarship fund
- Office Beautification (indoors/outdoors)
- Event Planning
- Administrative Assistance Volunteer

Please complete and mail to: Agape Christian Counseling,
2124 Crown Centre Dr, STE 400, Charlotte, NC 28227-7804

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

MAILING ADDRESS:

Street: _____

City/State: _____

You may also call the office at 704-849-0144 or email us at: office@ncagape.org