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OUR MISSION

AgapéCare Cradle-
A specialized mortuary reflects Christ's unconditional love by meeting funeral needs, and providing bereavement support to parent families who suffer the loss of a baby.

OUR VISION

Every parent who suffers the loss of a baby will be treated with highest dignity and care regardless of their ability to pay for funeral services and supplies.

AgapéCare Cradle will show the love of Christ by honoring the "least of these" (Matt. 25:40) to demonstrate the absolute intrinsic value of all made in His image, even the smallest and most frail.

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Photograph by Kelly Lindsay



Agape'Care Cradle, Inc.

Bringing Hope to the Brokenhearted

SEASON OF RENEWAL

Baby Sister Baby Brother



It was Spring 2006 when Tracy and Cheri stood together and pledged their marriage vows to have and to hold . . . in sickness and in health. Surrounded by nature's bouquet, thousands of newly bloomed flowers, they promised themselves to each other for all time. Tracy and Cheri, now Mr. and Mrs. Liggett, knew from that moment forward they would anticipate each spring with a sense of renewal and excitement for the season. Little did they realize that it would be just one year later, with spring approaching once again, that they would also be expecting their first child together. Annie Grace already beautiful and amazing to her parents, arrived unexpectedly and premature. Just twenty-three weeks along weighing one pound three ounces, Annie clung to life for two short hours before she slipped away. A friend of the Liggetts' told them about AgapéCare Cradle. When they arrived to make funeral arrangements, Annie was brought to them wrapped in a blanket and gently placed in her mother's arms. It was a blessing just

to hold her once again. Annie's funeral was held at Westlink Christian Church. Eight months later Tracy and Cheri learned they were expecting another child. Thanking God for new life in the midst of the pain of losing Annie, Tracy and Cheri believed the prayers they had cried out in sadness and desire to have a child had been heard at last. As another spring overcame cold of winter, they learned the baby who was coming was a boy. Things seemed to be going well, then tragedy struck once again, and they found themselves at the hospital in early labor. The next day on Easter Sunday morning about four am, baby Thomas William was born. Another very premature child, Thomas did not survive. Again AgapéCare was called. Crossroad Fellowship Bible Church opened their doors and Thomas' funeral was held there. Afterward Thomas was laid to rest near his sister Annie at Resthaven Cemetery.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Tracy and Cheri, bereaved parents twice now, questioned both God and each other: "How can scripture tell us about hope and a future when God allows us to lose both our babies?" It hurt so much and seemed like everywhere they went people were celebrating new life and babies while they suffered through

the pain of losing theirs. They wondered if God could have even possibly singled them out PERSONALLY to suffer. Why? Many discussions with doctors followed and it was all bad news. Everyone seemed to concur it would require a miracle for them to ever conceive again. Bringing home a healthy baby seemed like such an impossible thing. Softly God spoke to their hearts: "Believe me ... just believe me".

God will use all things for the good of those who love him and have been called according to his purpose" Romans 8:28.

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Photography by Tanya Webster

Bringing Hope to the Broken Hearted

Spring/Summer 2009

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How You Can Help Us

AgapéCare Cradle receives families without regard to ability to pay, and based on our capacity at the time of each request for funeral services, to provide comprehensive care and fully meet the family's needs.

- Pray regularly for families suffering through the loss of a baby family member.
- Advocate to others about the mission, ministry and needs of AgapéCareSM Cradle
- Help future families through:
 - ❖ Financial gifts
 - ❖ Designating a memorial to AgapéCareSM Cradle

Donate an item or items:

- * Gift certificates to Hobby/Discount/Office Supply stores
- * Used frost free refrigerator in good condition - for break room
- * Brochure folding machine (*capable of half and trifold*)
- * Aluminum ladder
- * Laminator

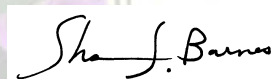
MOTHERS AND FATHERS ALWAYS

April, May and June traditionally bring bursts of new life and warmth, introducing a season of greening and growth as spring wraps itself around the cold of winter, extinguishing ice and snow. In May and June mothers and fathers are traditionally honored. Families esteem their role and the responsibilities of rearing children.

Midway between Mother's Day and Father's Day lies another day of immense significance in our country: Memorial Day. Originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day was first officially observed on May 30, 1868. Flowers were strewn on graves of fallen soldiers to honor the sacrifice of those who lost their lives during the Civil War. Communities nationwide now host Memorial Day observances annually both to honor those who gave their lives in service to our country, and also to remember other loved ones who have passed.

Mother's Day, Fathers Day and Memorial Day all represent a time of intense reflection for AgapéCare Cradle families. Parents who suffered the loss of a baby family member this past year, while no less mothers and fathers than any other parent, are seldom recognized as such on these special days when everyone openly honors the mothers and fathers of living children.

In this season of remembrance honoring the memory of those fallen but not forgotten, please remember the many mothers and fathers whose children are not physically with them, but whose spirit and memory remain alive and forever etched in their hearts.



Shannon S. Barnes
Executive Director

A HOPE RESTORED

(continued from pg 1)

Was God calling them to live and live abundantly regardless of circumstances? Did God expect them to believe He could strengthen, give hope, and renew their love for life despite the tragic losses of both Annie Grace and Thomas William? Autumn yielded to winter and there too was God, entreating them to live as though it were spring! It was then they learned their miracle was indeed taking place. Although both had relinquished any hope or expectation of having children together, Cheri learned she was expecting another baby! Olivia is a healthy baby girl almost full term now. Olivia Faith will soon be born!

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1

COMMON QUESTIONS

We are often asked "When will you be able to receive every family who calls?". Seventeen families have contacted AgapéCare Cradle for services thus far in 2009. We received five of those families into our program.



AgapéCare Cradle devotes many hours intensively caring for each family through the crisis of loss then continues supportive contact for one year. We receive a family calling for services if:

1. *We have volunteers and staff available to fully meet the needs of the family who is calling.*
2. *We have funeral supplies on hand for the type of service arrangement the family desires.*

Although we do not have sufficient resources yet to serve all families requesting services, we receive them if at all possible.

What will my donation to AgapéCare Cradle pay for?

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38

- ❖ \$65 covers cost for a remembrance memory book and printing service items
- ❖ \$125 publishes a baby's picture and an expanded obituary
- ❖ \$200 - \$600 will purchase a hand built wooden or good quality manufactured baby casket & an outer container (*most cemeteries require an outer container*)
- ❖ \$1000 - covers rent and utilities for one month

GIVING THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

Joy Dutton

Recently my granddaughter Brooke and her sisters Hannah and Kaylee spent the weekend with grandpa and grandma. Ten year old Brooke said she wanted to give Agape'Care Cradle something, adding "I have to OK it with Mama". Brooke picked up the phone, called her mom, then announced she would give her \$10 birthday money from aunt Traci to Agape'Care Cradle, adding: "I really don't need it. I have plenty of money - I have \$20.00 in the bank", adding "Please write that it is also from Hannah and Kaylee too because they don't have any money."

Sometimes I ask myself: Am I giving out of a joyful and generous heart? Do I trust God to provide before looking to the assurance of my bank statement before I give? Is it important to be recognized for giving or more important to give generously, sacrificially and without fanfare? Do I have faith as a little child when it comes to giving? As I think on this I will always remember my precious ten year old granddaughter's generous and joyful spirit in sharing her own gift.

Jesus said "Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WINS QUALITY OF LIFE AWARD

Bill Corle



On Thursday, May 7th, at their 60th annual dinner, the Wichita Medical Research & Education Foundation (WMREF) named Shannon Barnes, founder of AgapéCare Cradle, as the 2009 individual winner of the Jiggs' Nelson Quality of Life Award. WMREF started the Quality of Life award 30 years ago to recognize members of the community who provide care and support above and beyond their normal work. Former awardees have been physicians, nurses, members of the clergy, and community volunteers. The award's namesake, Dr. Russell aka "Jiggs" Nelson, was a well known member of the medical community and founder of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Wesley Medical Center.