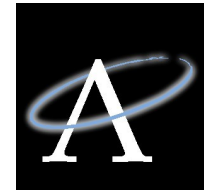




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AgapéCare Cradle, Inc.
Bringing Hope to the Brokenhearted

Return Service Requested

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.

AgapéCare Cradle is a publicly supported 501(c)3 charitable organization

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AgapéCare Cradle



Photograph by Kelly Lindsay

*Bringing HOPE to the
Brokenhearted*



Tom & Mira Ehrlich headed to Chicago in 2007 to watch their favorite basketball team play in the first round game of the NCAA. When they returned to Wichita, a positive pregnancy test was almost a shock but also exciting. Mira picked out bright colors for the new baby's nursery: lime green, yellow, and turquoise. Tom taped and arranged all the colors into a checkered pattern. They found out that they would have a boy. Everyone was excited because this would be the first grandson on both sides of their families. They knew their baby boy would share their love for basketball and sports.

Mira prepared her 3rd grade students for State Assessments even as she prepared for the new baby. When she was 30 weeks along a routine doctor visit raised concern because her blood pressure was too high. Mira's doctor explained she was sending her straight to the hospital and that she would receive medication in case the baby decided to come early. Four days later Mira was released from the hospital and put on strict bed rest because she had a condition called pre-eclampsia, or pregnancy-induced high blood pressure. The only way to get rid of it was to have the baby. Mira followed her doctor's orders to the letter. She prayed for and read to the "little guy inside of me" and followed all the restrictions to keep her baby safe so she and Tom could hold him soon. Three weeks later a sonogram was

done to check the baby's health. The sonographer sent Mira immediately to see her doctor. When she got to the office the receptionists were talking but when she entered they fell silent. She sensed immediately the news must not be good, but remained hopeful thinking she would just have to go to the hospital right away. A doctor came in and asked Mira if there was anyone that could come in the room to be with her, so she called Tom and their pastor's wife. Shortly before Tom arrived, another doctor came in and explained the baby had no heart beat. Tom got there and Mira told him about the baby. Their faith in God although shaken, remained strong as they cried together and prayed that even this almost unbearable tragedy would bring glory to His name.

Later that day at the hospital, their regular doctor came in. Even though she was off work that day, she stayed with them. They will always remember her kindness to be there for them. On Friday November 2, 2007 at 1:15 p.m., Mira delivered a stillborn boy: Caden Everett Ehrlich. Caden weighed three pounds six ounces. It was a bittersweet moment to finally hold him. They had never considered they would give birth and be planning a memorial service all in the same week. Their pastor told them about AgapéCare Cradle and called on their behalf. A director came to the hospital to talk with them. "Agape Care Cradle walked us through the process of planning a memorial service for our baby step by step, offering choices and waiting as long as it took for us to make decisions."

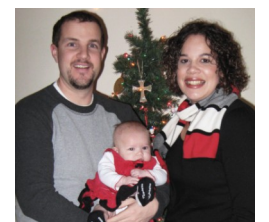
Caden's memorial service was held at

Wichita First Church of the Nazarene. "Praise you in this Storm", a song by Casting Crowns, was played and Tom and Mira shared how God made them strong and how losing Caden had shown them what faith was really all about.



Hundreds of Sympathy cards made by Tom and Mira's students were displayed at Caden's Memorial service

After many months, Tom and Mira decided to try to have another baby. Months passed and no baby. They started to grieve again for a new child then gave their hopes and dreams of being parents again to God and waited. Finally they became pregnant again and on October 3, 2009 their baby daughter Jaycee was born. "Jaycee brought joy back into our lives".



They laugh and celebrate again and plan to tell Jaycee someday about her big brother in heaven who watches out for her as any brother would.

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How You Can Help

AgapéCare Cradle needs the following items:

- ❖ Lightweight sturdy utility cart
- ❖ Sturdy stand up Flip Chart Easel
- ❖ Flip Charts ("Post It Note" Type)
- ❖ Bubble Wrap
- ❖ 96/97 HP Print Cartridges
- ❖ Long Handle Window Squeegee
- ❖ Two 15-20 ft. Heavy multi outlet extension cords

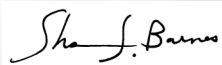
What Exactly Is A Funeral "Program"?

Funeral businesses traditionally establish themselves generation to generation as children grow up and take over the family business. Economic pressures in an information age are changing how funeral establishments do business but one thing hasn't changed: If a family member or friend of the family has been met with kindness and respect when need arose in the past, the funeral director and business who helped that family are never forgotten. The next time a death happens the family will call on the person they know and trust.

AgapéCare Cradle is unique as a nonprofit specialized funeral provider in a traditionally for profit industry, but not unique in that we are old enough now to be receiving family to family and friend to friend referrals. The unfortunate circumstance of losing a baby is fraught with grief and not knowing where to turn. Young families having never dealt with death or the details of what to do about it, look to extended family and friends seeking someone who can guide them then make the call: "You helped my buddy a year ago. We had a baby this morning and she is not going to make it. Can you help us?"

AgapéCare Cradle meets each family with kindness coupled with practical services to arrange funerals, memorials, cremation and burial. We create a complete set of sweet remembrances that nurture each family's ability to tell others the story of their precious baby's life. After the service is over the program continues as AgapéCare stays in touch with each family for one year. Thank you for considering AgapéCare Cradle's funeral program to be a worthy recipient of your charitable dollars.

Sustained by grace,



Executive Director

To Honor 'The Least of These'

Fr. Mike Maybrier



When a child dies no matter what the age it is a profound loss. The gift of a new life that has been cut short is sometimes met with "you can have other children" or "it was not meant to be". With stillborn deaths there may be no funeral even offered.

AgapéCare Cradle recognizes every life is precious and deserves our respect. The special things they do to remember the child helps the family and everyone around the family. Hearts are touched by this ministry reaching out to make such a troubling time into a time where healing and reconciliation can begin.

I am so grateful that AgapéCare Cradle exists. As a pastor it is helpful to know AgapéCare is available. I am also aware this ministry needs our support too. Thank you for your prayers to remember each family who is suffering through the loss of a baby.

"Lord God, ever caring, we commit to your love this little one, quickened to life for so short a time. You have enfolded this child in eternal life. We pray for parents saddened by the loss of their child. Continue to give them your peace until we meet again one day in the joy of your Kingdom. Amen."

Funeral Directors: AgapéCare Cradle & You

Rick Yoder, FD

I have worked with and called on funeral directors for many years, and know most of them to be caring people who give a lot more than they are sometimes given credit for. Many funeral homes offer services to families of a child at a greatly reduced cost. Serving a family who has lost a stillborn baby or infant is always a difficult time and most young parents are usually strapped for financing.

Although cost is a consideration for most families, AgapéCare Cradle is a nonprofit mortuary that was developed to provide services in these particular times of need to give families more opportunity and time to acknowledge and remember their little ones in a very special way. AgapéCare Cradle is in no way a competitor to the average funeral home, and depends on donations and gifts to be able to provide their services. It is my hope that Kansas Funeral Directors will add their support to a growing public constituency that is giving to this unique charitable funeral establishment.

*Whatever ye do unto the least of these, ye do unto me.
Matthew 25:40*

How AgapéCare Cradle Serves Families

AgapéCare Cradle serves families in the Wichita metropolitan area who have lost a stillborn or infant child according to availability of staff, volunteers, funds and special funeral supplies unique to our program. Each family receives an itemized statement of funeral goods and services as is required by law. We ask each family to pay something if they can. We do not send families a bill for services or funeral supplies such as caskets that we provide. AgapéCare stays in touch with each family for one year following their loss through regular supportive contacts.

Volunteering for AgapéCare Cradle

Chelsea Whipple, Associate Director

A key strength of AgapéCare Cradle lies in our dedicated volunteers! On Feb. 20 AgapéCare Cradle hosted its first Volunteer Forum. New volunteers along with seasoned volunteers learned about what volunteers do along with current and expected needs as the organization grows.

Volunteers for AgapéCare Cradle:

- (1) can sign up to work on a schedule or on an "as needed" basis
- (2) must complete an orientation
- (3) will use their technical skills to help further our mission

The nature of AgapéCare Cradle's ministry requires volunteers to be flexible and understand that a death doesn't usually happen when it is convenient for persons responding to a need. Increasing our volunteer base helps increase services to the community. Email is currently our primary method to keep volunteers updated but we will accommodate volunteers who do not use email. A new 'volunteer friendly' website is under construction and will be on display soon. Flexibility to do whatever is needed is important and our wonderful volunteers step up to respond time and time again.. Our goal is to have a regular scheduled volunteer staff by the end of the year. To our current and prospective volunteers: Thank you for YOU!



Some of AgapéCare Cradle's volunteers who attended the volunteer forum on Feb. 20