Our vision is big.

We dream of a day when everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus. This vision extends beyond our national borders and beyond what we could ever hope to accomplish on our own.

Our strategy is simple.

We believe that in order to see the growth of spiritual movements like Jesus did, we need to do what Jesus did: introduce people to his message, help them grow in their understanding of how to follow him, and challenge them to transform their family relationships.

We believe that in order to make the biggest impact on the whole of society by focusing our activity on four key areas of British life, our strategy is simple.

Our Mission

Agapé wants to play our part in bringing about spiritual change in the UK and beyond. We believe we can make the biggest impact on the whole of society by focusing our activity on four key areas of British life.

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Who We Are

On behalf of the Council of Management, I want to express our gratitude for you and your partnership with us in the Gospel through your prayers, giving, and support. You are a constant blessing and encouragement to us, and we look forward to the next 50 years of introducing people to Jesus and seeing lives transformed with you.

Yours in Christ,
Gary Palmer
Chair, Agapé Council of Management

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Come help change the world,” Agapé’s rallying cry for 50 years, was repeated emphatically again at MOVE Weekend 2017, our anniversary celebration in Yarnfield, Staffordshire.

From 3rd-5th February 2017, Agapé UK gathered to celebrate 50 years of God at work in the UK with friends, supporters, students, volunteers, alumni, and current staff. It was a fantastic time of both reminiscing about all that has happened in years past, and training, equipping and envisioning for the years yet to come.

Over the course of the weekend, delegates had the opportunity to engage in seminars giving practical advice from across our ministries, including prayer, fasting and sharing faith with Muslims, as well as tools in sharing faith at work, and discipling and equipping believers at university. “I have been reminded that knowing the Knowing God Personally outline and sharing it with people is a powerful and life changing tool,” said David. “I loved hearing of the boldness that Agapé staff and volunteers have – I need to introduce it into my life. Abisayo shared, “I am right at the very beginning of my working life and want to start it with evangelism taking its rightful place as one of my priorities. I’m sure you can help!”

A large number of people went out into local communities on Saturday afternoon, seeking to bless nearby churches through partnership in outreach. “It was good to help the local church in their outreach and get out onto the doors. Thanks for the challenge. I’m praying for lasting fruit,” said Jamys, who took part. Tim, a church leader who joined in with the internet outreach that same afternoon, shared: “Mystory.me is fab – we must post a whole number of these as a church group so it becomes the Stories page on our website, so that enquirers may tap into the other stories available.”

In main sessions, delegates heard from four keynote speakers, who encouraged them to think about what it meant to be whole-hearted for Christ where they study, work and live: looking back at the wonder of the gospel, asking how we connect the gospel to our culture, how we connect to God, and also examining Jesus’ call to go to the world. Said one delegate, “God has reminded me that I am significant because of Him. Therefore I have a job to do in getting His word out there, but I can do so without fear, as everything I do is hand-in-hand with Him.”

The scale of the impact that God had through the faith of the original University Ambassador Team, who arrived in the UK in 1967, became particularly clear throughout the Celebration Evening, as stories were shared of God’s powerful activity in the UK and across the world as a direct result of their initial step of faith. “Seeing the way God has used individuals to shape so many people’s lives is incredible,” said Jonny. “It has encouraged and inspired me to persevere in reaching out to others, even when I have no idea where it has led, because God is at work and can use even the most seemingly insignificant encounter to bring about transformation and redemption.” Rachel was also greatly impacted through the evening: “God has been so faithful! Hearing stories of people who trust Him decades ago – and now it’s clear that God’s unconditional love has not changed one ounce. It makes me ask, ‘How can I follow Jesus more closely?’”

“It is so inspiring to see the incredible impact that a relatively small number of people can have,” said Tom. “Agapé is truly changing the world.”

To hear more about Agapé’s 50th anniversary celebrations, and hear more stories of the impact God has had over the years, head to www.agape.org.uk/50years
our passion is that every student in the UK should have the opportunity not just to hear the gospel, but to learn to follow Jesus for the rest of their lives.

WHAT WE DO

Agapé Student Life want to take the initiative in explaining the gospel in a clear and understandable way to the 93% of students who have never been given the opportunity to hear or respond to Jesus. This happens in a variety of relational ways in every Student Life location: through face-to-face conversations on campus, Student Life community gatherings (where faith is a topic of discussion for Christian and non-Christians alike) and evangelistic Bible study groups, as well as the simple method of studying the Bible for Christians and non-Christians alike. It is our desire that our students have the opportunity not just to hear the gospel, but to learn to give their lives to Christ, through personal conversations.

MOVE WEEKEND

In 2017, Agapé Student Life joined with other Agapé ministries at MOVE Weekend, which allowed students to gain a greater perspective of the scope of Agapé’s vision and how they could continue to be effective disciples of Jesus beyond their time at university. We were really pleased that a few students took on key roles (such as MC, playing in the band, and sharing with all attendees about what God has done through Student Life) throughout the conference. We also launched the first draft of our Catalytic Packs at MOVE Weekend — a DIY resource to help students launch Student Life on their campuses.

UNIVERSITY CAMPAIGNS

We had several different campaigns which connected us with the wider university community. In Oxford and Newcastle, we hosted professors from Faculty Commons in the US speaking on topics such as sleep habits and speech therapy, whilst also sharing their stories of coming to faith. International Women’s Day was a chance to continue to engage with students across the UK through our Speak Out campaigns. These were run by students and staff in different cities across the UK. We also partnered with GAiN UK to send students on a project to refugee camps in Greece, and ran various appeals to send resources to people living as refugees in camps in Iraq.

EQUIPPING NEW LEADERS

Several of our staff and students across the country visited Nottingham over the spring to give their lives to Christ through personal conversations initiated, and 11 students giving their life to Christ through personal conversations.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

In order to grow students’ vision to reach the wider world, we used our Govember campaign in November as a platform to engage and encourage Christian students to be thinking about God’s love for the nations. In conjunction with the Communications team in the UK and USA, we also produced a Global Missions booklet: this is a tool to help staff connect with churches by showing and raise awareness of the overseas opportunities we have to offer. At the end of 2017, we started trialling this booklet and training staff in its use.

In national news, we welcomed a new Agapé Student Life Director, Jude Daniel, in 2017, with Nicole Lewis continuing in her role as Agapé Student Life Associate Director. We are really excited to have such a strong team leading us, and are praying that God would continue to use our staff, and volunteers to make Jesus known on campuses across the UK and wider world.

NEW LEADERSHIP

In 2017, the main activity of Agapé Work Life was focused around the key resource ‘The Biscuit Trail’, designed to help Christians identify small next steps they can take to make Jesus known. A free copy was given to all 400 people who came to the MOVE Weekend in February. Subsequently, Agapé staff around the UK made particular efforts to encourage their own churches to make use of it. Approaches were also made to other key church leaders in Birmingham, London and Newcastle to raise awareness of the resource.

As a direct result of this promotional activity, at the very end of the year, two large influential churches (one in London and one in Birmingham) ordered enough copies for all of their home group leaders (25 and 40 copies respectively), with plans to train them in using it in early 2018. At the end of 2017, two staff members working with our sister organisation in the USA moved to London to continue to develop Agapé Work Life.

In 2017, we saw around 2,500 gospel conversations initiated, and students giving their life to Christ through personal conversations.
Agapé Family Life works to strengthen families. We help to transform family relationships through providing hope and practical tools based on biblical principles and knowing Christ. Our aim is to give every family in the UK this opportunity.

**EVENTS**

Agapé Family Life has been providing training, innovative programmes and resources to a growing network of volunteers to help individuals and churches effectively minister to churched and un-churched families in their communities. Our work provides a practical context of love and forgiveness for the gospel message. Our events allow couples, whether they are doing well or struggling, to engage with topics including God’s purposes for marriage, communication, resolving conflict as well as expressing love.

**AGAPE FAMILY LIFE**

In 2017 we partnered with a number of hosts to offer eight A Day Together (ADT) couples’ seminars in six cities and towns across the country:

- Birmingham – Renewal Christian Life Centre
- Liverpool
- London – All Souls
- London – South Woodford
- Gerrards Cross
- Worthing

The event is sprinkled with personal stories by the presenting ‘facilitator couples’ of their differences in their faith that has made in their marriages. In total 409 people attended ADT in the UK. We continue to measure effectiveness of the day which shows a significant benefit in key areas for couple stability, in particular: acceptance of partner, communication and resolving conflict. We also continue to receive excellent couple feedback.

**WHAT IS LOVE ACTUALLY?**

During 2017 we presented five What is Love Actually? (WILA) evenings, in Birmingham, Danham, Gerrards Cross, Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Worthing. WILA takes a light-hearted look at the subject of love with clips from Love Actually and contrasts common cultural ideas about love with a practical Biblical view. The event includes personal testimony and we introduce a helpful relationship tool called ‘The Five Love Languages’ (by Gary Chapman, used with permission).

These short events are very accessible for everyone and are proving extremely popular and prestigious for the Agapé Family Life profile. In total, 230 people attended WILA in 2017.

**FACILITATOR TRAINING**

In 2017, we trained seven more couples (five from the UK, one from Lithuania, and one from Kenya) in facilitating A Day Together. It was a great encouragement to us that three of the UK couples were millennials! They are the heartbeat of Agapé Family Life, being hands and feet in their local communities.

Chari and Dave Mathew, Vanessa and Haugha Mupfumira, Ashley and La’Ane Hendel, Mark and Lesnea Lane, and Rumbi and Muchada Bvunzawabaya joined the UK event facilitator team. They have brought both youth and cross-cultural depth to the team.

Tiffany Atkins and Gill Headington joined the Agapé Family Life core team in 2017. Tiffany is an experienced member of Agapé staff who lives in Cambridge; she will be responsible for coordinating Agapé Family Life activities in Cambridge and East Anglia. Gill is a local volunteer and a gifted organiser and administrator, and will be helping administer Agapé Family Life finances.

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

The Together small group material allows couples who attend events to take Agapé Family Life learning home, multiplying the ministry in their community and digging deeper into what the Bible says about relationships. Together combines practical tools with Bible study, effectively discipling couples and bringing God into the heart of marriages. Another benefit is that it builds strong friendships! Groups are running in many places across the UK and in other countries, and the resource has now been translated into Dutch, German, Greek, Portuguese, Romanian, and Spanish.

In the UK we launch Together groups after our events. The number of known and registered group leaders grows slowly but steadily, and in 2017, 60 people indicated interest in joining a group, which typically consists of a lead couple and four others. We know that many registered group leaders have led several different groups. We continue to seek ways of encouraging and supporting new groups to start and to help them multiply, and are encouraged to continue hear stories from UK and overseas of individuals coming to faith through Together.

**TOUCAN**

A powerful new app... makes proven relationship tools available to everybody.

Sir Paul Coleridge, Marriage Foundation, Speaking on Toucan

Toucan is a web app, it provides couples with proven practical relationship tools, bite-sized video clips, stories and simple exercises. The app also guides people through a constructive ‘Couple Time’ to discuss and apply what they have found helpful. To aid engagement, there are some fun game-like elements too. Following the launch of the ‘Communication’ module at MOVE, we were able to launch the ‘Conflict’ module in August 2017.

By the end of the year, www.toucanTogether.com had received 14,442 visitors and 1,438 had converted to Toucan users. We are encouraged by the high conversion rate. We are also encouraged that millennials (those born between 1982-2000) make up 44% of Toucan users and 61% of users. Our relationship satisfaction measurements show that the ‘Communication’ module increases satisfaction by 14.3%, this is very encouraging and a higher than we expected.

To find out more about Agapé Family Life, visit www.familylifeuk.org or to help us provide resources and training head to www.toucanTogether.com

To make a donation towards the work of Agapé Family Life, go to give.agape.org.uk/familylife

**TOUCAN PROJECT**

To facilitate the growth of Toucan in other countries, the Toucan project has been launched. We are looking for partners, minimum of 10, who want to translate and launch Toucan. To find out more, please contact us at projects@agape.org.uk
The Easter period, and another team went to the Student Life team went to mainland Greece over of volunteers to refugee camps: an Agapé.

The UK's response included sending two teams work of GAiN in Iraq, Syria, and Haiti. £20,000 has been donated for the continuing

sending nearly 300 boxes of relief items, a total of supplies, hygiene care packs and winter clothing

Throughout the year the team collected school

The main focus for GAiN UK over 2017 has been countries in 2017.

£8.5 million in support of projects in a total of 56

500 people on mission teams and raise

was able to mobilise 20,000 volunteers, send

UK, and the USA), collectively GAiN Worldwide

network of 11 Resources Offices (in Australia,

development projects. Through a growing

hope and restore life through relief and

As a worldwide network, GAiN exists to reveal

the marginalised and crisis affected

people around the world.

the team to bring a practical expression of God’s love to people in the toughest of circumstances.

This year a team of students and recent graduates returned to Cluj-Napoca in Romania to continue working with our local partners who are reaching out to Roma children and teenagers to envision them for a better future. This was a great opportunity for returning students to bring others on the project with them including one student who co-led the team. The UK staff working with GAiN continue to look for ways to integrate social justice and compassion aid across our ministry areas and develop practical projects to involve volunteers in giving their time, skills and resources.

Nicole Lewis, Agapé Student Life Associate Director, part of the team to Lesbos in Oct 2017

W

We believe that every Agapé staff member and volunteer should be growing in their commitment to God’s mission in the world, as evidenced by their praying, giving and going. We also believe that we must welcome qualified and called individuals from other countries to serve alongside us here in the UK. To this end, GAiN has committed to providing frequent opportunities for staff and volunteers to serve God beyond their immediate locality. We aim to provide care and support for those we send and receive.

LONG-TERM MISSION

Currently, there are British staff serving long term in Austria, Denmark, East Asia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Middle East, Russia, South Africa, and the USA. We are also blessed in the UK to have staff serving alongside us from Albania, Finland, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Spain, South Korea, Switzerland, the USA, and the UK.

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

During 2017, short-term student projects went to Greece (Thessaloniki – in collaboration with Agapé’s humanitarian partner, GAiN), Malta, Portugal (Lisbon), Russia (St Petersburg). Thirty students and staff were in these projects.

In October, another short-term team, made up primarily of members of Agapé’s Executive Leadership Team, travelled with GAiN to serve at a refugee camp on the island of Lesbos. This was a transformative and impactful time for many on the team, and we are looking forward to sending more teams (both student and non-students) serve in (loosely) in 2018 and beyond.

As a national ministry we are also taking the lead in helping Agapé Europe establish cross-cultural training for missionaries leaving their home countries to serve overseas. In the summer of 2017, British staff directed the training for 20 staff from across Europe starting international assignments in 2017/2018.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION

PIONEER TEAM

our Research & Development team, started in 2016 to pioneer a holistic approach to ministry, continued their work into 2017. The team are exploring what it means to make Christ known in everyday life to those in your place (‘place’ being wherever you work, study, play, socialise, and live). Rather than focusing on a specific audience or addressing a need, the focus is envisioning every Christian to see sharing Jesus as a 24/7 lifestyle.

In 2017, the team worked on developing models and resources to envision and equip ordinary Christians to make Jesus known where they are, as well as grappling with the theological thinking which has brought the church to this point in history. A primary motivation in taking this approach is that the vast majority of British people are uninterested in attending church or Christian events, and so remain unreached. Yet, many have heard of Christians present within their sphere of life.

Each member of the team has sought to model this vision by engaging with people in their place. For most, this has been with neighbours, and involved taking the initiative to befriend them, offer hospitality, and seek ways to serve them in practical ways. In addition, most team members have been involved in local social projects, such as resident associations and service projects. In this context friendships are being built that eventually allow for conversations about Jesus.

A study booklet, Good Neighbour, was developed to resource the training, and has found it helpful for church members to be able to express their faith to those around them in a relational way.

A study booklet, Good Neighbour, was developed to resource the training, and has found it helpful for church members to be able to express their faith to those around them in a relational way.
Under the leadership of National Director Lesley Cheesman, the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) is responsible for the strategic leadership, spiritual oversight and day-to-day management of Agapé. The ELT is made up of nine senior members of staff who meet monthly.

Agapé UK is accountable to the leadership of Agapé Europe, the Western European arm of Campus Crusade for Christ International. Campus Crusade for Christ is a global movement with a presence in 191 countries.

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

Agapé is overseen in the UK by the Council of Management (CoM) which meets four to five times a year. Under charity legislation, our CoM (or Board of Trustees) is responsible for ensuring that Agapé is financially solvent, well-run, and delivering the charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public for which Agapé has been set up. In addition to their legislated responsibilities, members of the Council often serve in the wider team. Significant progress was made during 2017, alongside the leadership in each area.

During 2017, a new Operations Director was appointed alongside the leadership in each area.

OPERATIONS, COMMUNICATIONS & HUMAN RESOURCES

The Operations, Communications and Human Resources teams serve as our “internal team”. These teams provide the resources for our field workers, including finance, communications, fundraising, IT, conferencing and other support. They develop a support network for the body of Christ to make Jesus known, and to resource the body of Christ with the gospel. Marriages and families have been strengthened by practical tools and biblical principles. Christians around the country have boldly shared their faith, perhaps for the first time, in their workplaces and communities.

In 2017, the ELT were made up of nine senior members of staff who met monthly.

To find out more about what it might look like to join the Agapé team full time, go to www.agape.org.uk/joinus

INCOME

Donations £2,735,541
Investment income £1,609
Sales of resources £14,446
Conferences £37,937

Total £2,789,531

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2017

EXPENDITURE

Outreach work with Student Life (UK) £1,019,557*
Outreach work with Family Life (UK) £348,463*
Outreach work with Work Life (UK) £82,174*
International Ministry £348,463*
Short term mission projects overseas £43,922*
Grants to activities of overseas Agapé organisations £90,758
Grants to activities of overseas non-Agapé organisations £745
Communications £73,558*
Sales activity (Resource production and distribution) £28,519*
Cost of generating funds through appeals £11,944
Other £13,266

Total £2,610,329

*includes staff salaries/expenses

Figures extracted from ‘Report and Financial Statements for the 12 months ended 31 December 2017’ available to view at www.agape.org.uk/financialreport

From the National Director

I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 1:6

As we celebrated 50 years of Agapé in the UK, it was encouraging to be reminded that our essentials haven’t changed over these five decades. Over our anniversary year, we have continued to do the things which are Agapé’s bread and butter. Students have been encouraged to share Jesus at their universities and have had their lives transformed by the grace and true freedom found in Christ. People living as immigrants and refugees have been met with compassion and practical help, and have committed to following the true God for the first time. British staff, students and volunteers have followed Jesus’ call to go to the nations with the gospel. Marriages and families have been strengthened by practical tools and biblical principles. Christians around the country have boldly shared their faith, perhaps for the first time, in their workplaces and communities.

It’s also clear that in 2017, our desire to resource and equip the local church with the knowledge, tools, and passion at our fingertips grew. We have been able to pass on key resources to the body of Christ to make Jesus known, and to have developed new and existing partnerships with churches as we have trialled fresh ideas for evangelism and discipleship. It is a great desire of mine that Agapé continue to grow in this, so that we and other ordinary people like us can work together to fulfil the extraordinary call of the Great Commission throughout 2018 and beyond.

Please do join me in praying, as our founder Dr Bill Bright once prayed, that we would never lose our first love for Jesus; and that as we do so, Agapé would continue to play our part in helping people to encounter God’s unconditional love through introducing people to Christ, helping them grow in their faith, and equipping them to go out and do the same with others. May we continue the good work which began all these years ago with faith, fervour, and a fresh revelation of the love and power of Christ.

Thank you, as ever, for your prayers, encouragement and faithful support over the past year. We are truly grateful.

Yours in Christ,

Lesley Cheesman
National Director

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To view our policies and terms visit: www.agape.org.uk/terms

May we continue the good work which began all these years ago with faith, fervour, and a fresh revelation of the love and power of Christ.

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Agapé is a Christian charity dedicated to addressing the spiritual needs of the UK by helping people to see, hear, understand, and be forever changed by the person and claims of Jesus.

Go to www.agape.org.uk to sign up to receive news and prayer requests by email.

Executive Leadership Team:
Lesley Cheesman (National Director), Jude Daniel, Mark Daniel, Henri Duncan, Frikkie Greyling, Thad Hoskins, Nicole Lewis, E. Bailey Marks Jr., Danielle Wilson

Council of Management:
Gary Palmer (chair), Richard Boothroyd, Lisbet Diers, Javier García (ex officio), Ian Johnson

Panel of Reference:
The Rt Revd Wallace Benn, Lyndon Bowring, Stephen Gaukroger, Ram Gidoomal CBE, Victor Jack, Josh McDowell, George Verwer, Sir Peter Woodhead KCB

Agapé has been giving training in discipleship and evangelism in the UK since 1967. We are a part of Campus Crusade for Christ International and are members of the Evangelical Alliance and Global Connections.

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