

Fall
2009

Agape
International

LOVE IN ACTION

What's New

A New School Year

As Agape has continued to grow, so has our Agape school. We currently have over 200 school age children who attend the Agape school. The school has developed a strong reputation in the area and we regularly have children/parents who are not affected by AIDs who want to attend the school. This year, one of Lynne and Ratnam's key areas of focus is investment in the Agape school which is, of course, an important factor in the Agape children's future.

New School Building

As part of that investment, we are moving to a brand new school building that is being built to suit for Agape. The building has 28 classrooms (room to grow!) as well as a library, a computer lab, and a science lab. Lynne and Ratnam found the new building by driving around the area surrounding our orphanages. The building is located within walking distance of two of our orphanages. We will rent the school building (we continue to rent all our children's homes and our current school because the cost of buying land/property in the Hyderabad area is surprisingly prohibitive). We continue to hope for donors who will be willing to buy a building or contribute to our Building Purchase Fund – this would give us more stability and ability to invest in our building facilities.



New school building in final stages
of construction

Agape Teacher Staffing

Agape currently employs 15 local Indian teachers, most of whom are B.Ed's (Bachelors of Education certified). We also have had a number of volunteers from the US who have taught a class through the school year. We are fortunate to currently have Angie Robey from Idaho, a 25 year old volunteer who is teaching the 3rd Class English Medium. We are also privileged to have Emily Richarde, who taught at Agape's school in 2008 (see some of Emily's reflections on the next page) with us for the year. She is mentoring our Indian teachers and working to introduce new learning approaches in the classroom. The school is led by a newly hired headmistress, Mrs.



Mrs. Vasantha (middle) with
American volunteers

Vasantha, who has 20 plus years of teaching and administrative experience in India. She most recently served as a headmistress at a local private school for six years. She is a wonderful addition to the Agape team bringing discipline and organization combined with a great willingness to try new things (an unusual combination!).