An Interview with former student, Carmen Guerra

Carmen Guerra was a student at Agape Baptist Church’s ESL program. Today she is helping other people learn English.

Carmen, why did you come to Agape’s ESL Class? The sign outside Why did you study English? I love the language, and it is a necessity for daily life.

How did the classes at Agape benefit you?
- I became more confident talking with people.
- I was pleasantly surprised by the experience of the group. There were students from other cultures, countries, and languages with different foods and customs. This was new and a good experience for me.
- The classes helped me succeed in my effort to communicate better.
- I was able to obtain a Driver’s License.
- I was able to prepare for and take the GED.
- The main thing that these classes provided was encouragement! When someone believes in you and pushes you to work and succeed, that makes a big difference. And that is what I felt. Scotty Gray was the main person who encouraged me. In the middle of the GED I became discouraged. Scotty challenged me to study and get my reading and writing skills up for the GED. He taught both ESL in the mid-week ESL classes and then GED on Saturdays. As a result of these classes, comprehension improved and my reading was faster.
- Lastly, I am still working on my English but the ESL class helped me feel confident to take the GED and to get a job. I am now working at the Tarrant Literacy Coalition, which partners with HOPE Literacy and Agape for ESL classes. I’m earning a wage and helping others to improve their English and their lives!

Partner with us on September 20, for North Texas Giving Day!

North Texas Giving Day 2018 is Thursday, September 20th of this year. When you give on September 20, your gift will be matched 1 to 1, up to $6,000. To give, go to the HOPE Literacy website at www.hopeliteracy.com, and click on the North Texas Giving Day logo. If you have any questions, please call Harry at 817-999-9357.
Something New...Mrs. Baird’s Bread, Missions, & LaDera Palms

From Russell Chung (HOPE at World Relief)

Every second Friday and Saturday of the month, Mrs. Baird’s Bread donates bread to the LaDera Palms community. Mrs. Baird’s Bread arrives at the Ladera Clubhouse (World Relief) with 2,000 loaves of bread to distribute to the complex, which houses a mixture of Texans and refugees.

Rather than a grab and go set up, volunteers from churches pack the bread into sacks (about 3/4 loaves) on Friday morning at 9. On Saturday morning at 10, teams from churches pick up bread and DELIVER it to apartments. Our goal is for this regular event to build trust and relationships. Our hope is that over time we will be invited IN to homes. If you are interested in loving refugees by either packing, delivering and/or TALKING to them...come on over!

Literacy? Why do we need it? (Int. Literacy Day, Sept. 8)

According to the International Literacy Association,

Literacy is the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, compute, and communicate using visual, audible, and digital materials across disciplines and in any context.

The ability to read, write, and communicate connects people to one another and empowers them to achieve things they never thought possible. Communication and connection are the basis of who we are and how we live together and interact with the world. (ILA website, www.literacyworldwide.org)

Roughly 12% of the world’s population is considered functionally illiterate, with only basic or below-basic literacy levels in their native languages.

781 million people worldwide still cannot read or write.

126 million youths are illiterate. (Source: UIS, 2014)

International Literacy Day is September 8. The theme is “Literacy in a Digital world.” For additional information, go to www.literacyworldwide.org.

Metroplex Literacy Conference 2018

Metroplex Literacy Conference 2018 at DBU was on March 3, 2018. Lester Meriwether was the Conference Coordinator. We had 101 participants this year. Our HOPE Co-Chairs, John Parsons and Karen Carlson, were at the conference, Karen volunteering and John at the World Relief Sponsor Table.

Iranian immigrant, Samira Page, gave her testimony at lunch. She came to the Lord through seeing her prayers for deliverance and provision answered. Her experience also included the fact that she had studied English in Iran which made her transition here so much easier. Her ministry now includes helping others with English as a second language.

Mark your calendars! Metroplex Literacy Conference 2019 will be March 2, 2019.

HOPE News:

Sarah Wright is retiring from her position as Director of Pantego Bible Church’s program, as she and her husband Bob will be doing some extensive traveling.

Noemi Cruz is stepping in as the new Director there.

Thank you, Sara, for all of your hard work.