Mission Statement: Agape Restoration Society Inc. is a Christian volunteer ministry that aims to restore orphans, widows, poor and disabled people to fullness of life; to restore this diakonia-ministry to the Body of Christ; and to provide a Christian community for independent living in moderation.

Agape Restoration Society has been functioning since 1998 in the U.S. as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We have worked in Russia for 10 years with disabled children and adults in their homes in the provinces and in the Moscow area providing rehabilitation, care and equipment. Since 2002 we have also trained hundreds of Americans and Russians to perform the diakonia social ministry that Jesus, the Apostles and the Early Church performed to “the poor, lame, maimed and blind” and to “widows and orphans,” using six courses of our one-year “Social Ministry of the Church” program in English and in Russian. This is an online interactive program we have also taught on-site in Russian at a Christian university and two seminaries in Moscow.

The ARS concept consists of training a team of workers from local churches to do diakonia social ministry together with evangelism and church planting. When our workers demonstrate the agape-love of Christ to a disabled or elderly person, this establishes credibility: they are able to pray and share the Gospel with that person, his/her family, relatives, neighbors and friends, invite them to the church and share with them the next phase:

Building Agape Restoration Communities (ARCs). These communities are self-funding, non-profit “housing cooperatives.” Our earlier ARC #1 was a cross-shaped structure with a large, 54 ft. by 54 ft. (16.5m. by 16.5m.) multipurpose hall/ chapel providing the church a place to worship. It could be built on a minimum 2.5 acre (100m. by 100m.) piece of land, although more is desirable to let residents cultivate garden plots and enjoy the outdoors. Use of the hall and balconies for worship and common meals, and any cafe, lounges, exercise and hobby rooms is determined by a schedule that co-op members will agree upon. As shown in our drawings, the arms of the cross will contain 28 to 42 wheelchair-accessible living units on two floors that are connected by ramps, and the second-floor living units each have a “loft.” The units use a modular design so the plans can easily be adapted for more smaller, or fewer larger living units as demand is determined before construction begins.
An **ARC #2**, where zoning requires fewer living units per building, is about 1/4 the size built on 1/2 acre with 6-8 living units, a multipurpose hall / chapel, kitchen and classrooms. Not all church members must be members of the co-op: most of the church members should be healthy and able to serve. All members of the co-op, however, must also be members in good standing of the church in a given ARC. To be members of the co-op, they must **either** 1) be in missions or volunteer [including students] to work at least 3-4 hrs/wk in the community or in local outreach; **or** have a resident family member who 2) has a disability or is an adopted or foster child, **or** is 3) at least 55 years old. We will create a subsidiary non-profit ARC housing co-op which will sell “shares” giving individuals or families a perpetual right to reside in their living units. “Shares” will be sold on **SIX-YEAR LOANS** to minimize interest. The church will own shares for the multipurpose hall / chapel: altar area, robes room and sacristy. Below is the floor plan for an **ARC #2**:

The steps toward starting a new Agape Restoration Community are as follows:

- Teach a team of *diakonia*-workers our 1-yr. program; begin caring for elderly, disabled, widows and orphans.
- While ministering to Christ's target audience and ours, begin inviting their families and friends to church.
- Hold meetings to explain the restoration community and organize an ARS branch, a non-profit housing co-op.
- Gather **reservations**: $500 refundable deposits to determine residents’ priority of home selection.
- With a bank or financial supporters, set up a construction fund to purchase land and finance construction.
- When we have enough reservations, gather **subscriptions**: $4500 down payment to select size of living unit.
- When construction is completed, subscribers sell or rent out their old homes to **pay for shares** for their units.

This concept is feasible: we borrowed the above steps of gathering reservations, subscriptions and selling shares from **Realife, Inc.**, which has built over 25 similar housing cooperatives in the U.S. upper Midwest. You can find many other Christian independent living communities in the U.S. by searching on the Internet. At our website **www.Agape-Restoration-Society.org** more information is available, including a 16-page article in PDF format with larger scale drawings of the ARCs, and our social ministry courses. You can also download my latest book, **The Ministry Driven Church**, as an e-book or order a printed copy of it there.