

## AGAPE (January 2016)

*"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."*  
John 13:34

We share many forms of our love for our brothers and sisters in the Emmaus Community in various ways, such as prayer support, sponsoring pilgrims, serving on team and notes of support or encouragement, which we lovingly refer to simply as "agape".

The Community does have standards for distributing those notes of agape throughout the 72 hour Emmaus weekend. These are observed so that each pilgrim will experience and receive the same universal love being sent forth by the Community. We will outline the timeline and guidelines to follow when preparing agape. *Pilgrims are always priority when sharing agape and it is not necessary to provide agape for team members.*

Each day of the weekend has a theme and can be utilized when preparing agape.

Friday – The love of God

Saturday – The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Sunday – The fellowship of the Holy Spirit

There are typically 5 agape drops throughout the weekend. Four of the drops should be "general" agape, meaning each pilgrim receives the same type of agape. Always provide enough agape for all pilgrims and agape should be identical or the same. Example, if there are 36 pilgrims, please send the same type of agape for each pilgrim.

The last agape drop will be Sunday and can be personalized. Personal letters can be written to pilgrims, this is usually when they receive letters from family, friends and sponsors.

Agape can be delivered to team any time prior to or during the walk weekend. However, all agape to be needs to be delivered to team in advance of the intended drop. Example – general agape to be read by the pilgrims after Candlelight must be received by agape team members by Saturday afternoon. There is not enough time to sort and deliver agape received at the Candlelight service cannot be included in the Saturday Candlelight drop.

### **Friday – 1 drop – GENERAL AGAPE**

Agape to be delivered during this drop should be labeled – FRIDAY

### **Saturday – 2 drops – BOTH ARE GENERAL AGAPE**

The first drop for Saturday should be labeled – SATURDAY A.M.

The second drop for Saturday will be read by the pilgrims after Candlelight and should be labeled – SATURDAY-AFTER CANDLELIGHT

### **Sunday – 2 drops – THE FIRST ONE WILL BE GENERAL AGAPE – THE SECOND ONE WILL BE PERSONAL AGAPE**

The first drop for Sunday should be labeled – SUNDAY A.M.

The second drop for Sunday should be labeled, addressed or personalized with the pilgrim's name.

Note – only 12 personalized letters will be delivered. Any more than 12 letters will be given to the pilgrim after closing.

This is so the pilgrim can embrace and absorb the personalized notes and not become overwhelmed or rushed in reading all their personal agape in the short time allowed before the cross ceremony and closing. If the agape team notices there is not enough personal agape for pilgrims, they will notify team members so they can assist in writing personalized letters to those pilgrims.

*No wrapped, boxed or bagged gifts will be delivered. Opening gifts interfere with reading of their personal letters. Also, not all pilgrims are given personalized gifts therefore creating confusion and hurt feelings for those not receiving gifts.*

If personal agape has prepared for a pilgrim who for cannot attend or finish the walk, the agape will be returned to the sponsor.

Your agape should be caring, fun, creative and uplifting. It can be simple or elaborate but keep in mind it is your message of sharing God's word and love.

DeColores!