



Agape Letter Changes From Karen Coen, Agape Chair

We have been working to become compliant with the Upper Room's national model for the Walk to Emmaus. Agape is the last area we needed to work on. The purpose for the changes to the way we have been doing our agape is to show God's love equally to all the pilgrims. No one pilgrim should receive any more or less than another. And, according to the national model, agape letters are **ONLY** for the pilgrims.

So, ***starting with the SPRING 2009 weekends***, the changes will be as follows:

- No more Agape Letters for the Team. As a Team member, it has been lovely to receive the tangible proof of the love of this community in the form of letters and small gifts. In the future, it is asked that the time spent in writing these letters just be spent in prayer for our team members.
- 2 of the 8 background crew will be assigned as Agape Coordinators for each weekend.
- The agape gifts that are so wonderfully supplied for each weekend will be used not only for dining table agape, but also for "pillow" agape and talk room table agape gifts! We're not asking anyone to make more, we're just letting you all know that the use of these things will be expanded!
- As you may know, each day of the weekend has a theme:
 - Day 1 is "the love of God",
 - Day 2 is "the grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ",
 - Day 3 is "the fellowship of the Holy Spirit"

Anyone can write a general letter to the pilgrims and team for any of these three days addressing the theme for the day. You can write a letter for **EACH** of these days if you like, and sign your name. The letter will be shared with everyone and left out for display. These letters will be very welcomed! These letters should not be put in envelopes or sealed.

- No more Friday night agape bags/letters. They will be distributed on Sunday afternoon (as explained more in the next point).
- This next area of change is KEY: **SPONSORS** will be responsible for gathering the 8-12 letters to be given out on **Sunday afternoon** to their pilgrim(s). If you are not able to get 8-12 letters please let me, someone on team or on the board,



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know. We will be happy to see to it that your pilgrim has 8-12 loving letters! PLEASE DO NOT BRING MORE THAN 8-12 LETTERS!!! We will not be able to give them to the pilgrim, and we may not be able to return them to you, the sponsor! Keep any extra that you get and give them to your pilgrim after closing!

- For those of you in the Community who write personal letters to the pilgrims, please feel free to so. These letters can be personal and signed. We will give each pilgrim a bag on Sunday that will be marked "OPEN ON YOUR FOURTH DAY!" and sealed. There will be a box provided in Grace house for these letters at send-off and a box provided at candlelight.
- Absolutely NO GIFTS to the Pilgrims on the weekend! Please save them for after closing.

One good thing is that we now have until Saturday night to get the letters to Pecometh! If you are bringing letters to send-off, try to have them taken (with the luggage) to Grace house. If you are bringing them to candlelight, there will be a box provided near the doors into the Sanctuary.

In the future, it may be more convenient to mail these letters to a community member who can gather them and see they get delivered. Beth Coppage has offered to deliver these letters. Her address is: 110 Clabber Hill Rd. Centreville, MD 21617.

I know there are folks in our community that don't have computers to check the web site, and some are not able to get to the gatherings. I am asking that those of you who can please share this information with anyone in your church or reunion groups who may not be able to get this information any other way.

My e-mail address is on the web site. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Thanks!

Karen Coen
Agape Chair