

Love Letter

"Jesus Wrote In The Sand"

Weekly Newsletter Published and Distributed By the Agape Church of Christ
Agape Church of Christ / Adorn Hall 4165 FM 521 Rd, Fresno, TX 77545
Graylon A. Freeman, Minister



AGAPE
CHURCH OF CHRIST



From The Pen Of A Free Man

"Letters In The Sand"

Bro. G. A. Freeman

Did you read the *"letters in the sand"*? Have you been mindful of all the wonderful things that the Lord has done? Have you stopped to consider the many blessings that He has sent your way over the past 22 weeks?

Here we are at the midway point of the year and the beginning of the last half as well! It is an exciting time to be a member of the Agape congregation as our ministries are flourishing and expanding into great and wonderful works for the Lord. We are letting our individual and combined lights shine in a manner and fashion that allows the community to see the light of Christ.

The challenge is for you to add Love *"letters in the sand"* and utilize your particular gifts to the glory of God. He has surely gifted you and you are obliged to use these gifts, talents and abilities in His service.

My encouragement to each and every member of the congregation is to listen very carefully to the multiple ministries here at Agape. Examine what they are. Talk to the ministry coordinators and leaders. See where your particular giftedness lines up with the various ongoing works of the congregation and then dedicate yourself wholeheartedly to that work for the balance of this calendar year.

When the apostle Paul closes his letter to the saints of Rome, in Romans chapter 16, he lists a host of individual Christians who were instrumental in helping him in the work of the Lord and the Lord's glorious Kingdom. Nothing less should be said of us here Agape—our designation means Love to its highest degree. We should be able to run down a list of the many Christians here who are to be commended for the efforts in spreading the gospel and living the Christian life.

So, add your *"Letters In The Sand"* and climb on board with us, for the remainder of the year and going forward as we do as the early church did in Acts 2:46, 47—it is said of them that: *"They continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added unto the church daily such as should be saved."*

Till the last amen,
Freeman

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Important Dates

*** 6/12/22 Welcome Dinner
With The Freeman's**

***7/24/22 Installation Ser-
vice & Program For Bro.
Freeman**

Plan Of Salvation

In order to obey the Gospel and become a Christian, a member of the Church of Christ, which is the Kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13) which is the body (Col. 1:18).

God has provided a scheme of redemption. A Plan of Salvation.

All who obey God, through Christ, must:

1. Hear the Gospel.
Rom. 10:12-17;
I Cor. 15:1-4
2. Believe in Jesus, as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
Jn. 8:24
3. Repent of your Sins.
Acts 2:38; 17:30,
Lk. 13:3, 5.
4. Confess Faith In Christ. Rom. 10:9.
5. Be Baptized for the remission of sins.
Mk. 16:16,
Acts 2:38; 22:16
6. The Lord will add you to His Body, which is the church.
Acts 2:47

This is the simple plan of salvation. There are biblical examples of this :
Acts 8:26-39.

Dear student of the Bible, follow after the Lord in the same fashion , and you too can be saved.

AGAPE Corners (Evangelism Ministry)



How To Change People

The mission of the church is to change the minds of people. Our object should never be that of just winning an argument or making a point. Our goal should never be just to "put down" someone; rather, we want them to change their minds and their lives to conform with the saving gospel of Christ. To this end, all of our collective and individual efforts should be devoted. It therefore behooves us to consider how we might get people to change. There are only three possible ways by which men have ever been changed:

- 1) By Force.
- 2) By Purchase.
- 3) By Persuasion.

Men and even nations have been changed by the use of physical force. When a person's life or physical welfare is sufficiently threatened by the use of force, he will usually submit to the will of another. The history books are full of examples of this kind of change. Likewise, if a sufficient price or consideration is offered to most people, they will change their lives to conform to the will of the purchaser. This is readily recognized in the area of wages or even bribes. Man's conduct is also changed by the power of persuasion. When compelling reasons are given for a different course of action, a person may frequently be convinced to change both his mind and his conduct.

Now, of these three ways by which man can be changed, which is/are acceptable for use by Christians? It should be obvious that neither Force nor Purchase is acceptable in trying to change others. Neither one of these methods has anything to do with changing the mind of the individual. These methods might change his actions but they will not change his convictions. Belief in what is right cannot be imposed on the human mind by either force or money. Even the change in conduct wrought by these methods lasts only as long as the force or the money holds out.

The only tool left to the Christian is the power of persuasion! This is precisely as God has ordained it. Note the following two passages:

"Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men...." (2 Corinthians 5:11). "...and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God, and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening" (Acts 28:23).

While the power of persuasion is all we have, it is enough! The only thing that renders it ineffective is our refusal or negligence to use it. May God always find us busily engaged in using the power of persuasion to change the minds of men.

AGAPE Spot Light (Highlighting Our Members)



Sister Angela Freeman has been attending the church of Christ her entire life.

Rooted and grounded in the tenants of faith, she has been involved in a wide variety of ministries - from education, edifica-

tion and evangelism.

Always ready with enthusiasm and engaging inspiration; she is a sterling example of what the scriptures describe as the victorious woman.

Indeed her relatives and friends call her blessed and see in her demeanor and disposition the true definition of Christian character.

Our spot light shines brightly on sister Angela as she is a radiant example of the reflection of the light of Christ.

Be blessed our dear sister—till the last amen.

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" III Jn. 2

AGAPE Considerations (Activity Ministry)



Let's Invest In People

After being warned by the prophet Daniel about his sinful pride (Proverbs 6:16-17; Psalm 101:5; cf. Proverbs 16:18), the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar was struck with insanity. The Lord restored his mind, but only after he spent a long period of time in a field thinking he was a wild animal (Daniel 4:28-37).

Nebuchadnezzar went from boasting, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the glory of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:30 ESV), to a humble prayer: "I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven" (Daniel 4:37). He had repented of prideful empire building.

There should be concern about empire building in the church today. Instead of focusing on large church buildings, one Christian evangelist encourages Christians to "build into the lives of people" and leave the results to God (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

When a congregation devotes undue energy to statistics, buildings, and programs, pride can enter in and the spiritual needs of God's people can be forgotten (cf. Hosea 4:6).

Jesus never forgot the value of people. He invested His time in 12 appointed men (Mark 3:14 ESV). Paul taught Timothy who in turn taught others (2 Timothy 1:13; 2 Timothy 2:2).

Brethren, God's kingdom grows when we invest in people! (cf. Acts 2:37-47; Acts 4:1-4; Acts 6:7; Acts 12:24; Acts 19:20; Colossians 1:5-6).

AGAPE Salutations

We, the Church of Christ, that meets at the Adorn Hall in Fresno, TX are delighted that you have received this particular edition of the "Love Letter"; a weekly publication which highlights important events and featured articles by our Minister and staff.

When you have the opportunity we would be elated to welcome you to any and all of our services at the congregation.

It is our great joy to proclaim the glad tidings of Christ, His Kingdom and His glorious gospel.

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Agape Church of Christ
Adorn Hall 4165 FM 521 Rd,
Fresno, TX 77545

Phone:
832-377-6785
E-mail:
agapecoc.org

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