

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

“Are We Not Instruments Of Destiny?”

Bro. G. A. Freeman

In looking at history, we see that great events have occurred around some person of great influence, i.e., Martin Luther King Jr, Medger Evers, George Washington Carver; etc. In times of great national distress, it is nothing short of providential guidance that certain people have been placed in certain places with certain qualifications, i.e., Barack H. Obama and the pursuit of Osama Bin-laden.

As Christians, our influence also has far-reaching results (1 Thess. 1). We may not even realize the small part that we play in the process, but to the extent that we influence history, we are instruments of destiny.

A case in point is the providence found in the story of Esther. At the beginning of the story, we see the wife of King Xerxes (Vashti) being ousted because of her stubbornness and refusal to attend a royal banquet (Est. 1). Because her defiance was looked upon as a threat to the king’s supremacy and authority, a decree was put out against her, and fair young virgins were sought to replace her. The king was smitten with Esther’s beauty and as a result, was made queen in place of Vashti (Est. 2).

Esther soon disclosed a plot to exterminate all of the Jews and assassinate King Xerxes (Est. 2:21-23; 3). Because of her position as queen, Esther was able to spare her people from disaster. However, there was a real danger, in that she herself might not survive when her real identity as a Jewess was discovered (Est. 4).

When Esther’s relative, Mordecai, saw her unique position as queen, he urged her to reveal the plot to the king. He challenged her with the same haunting question which now lays claim on us: “And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Est. 4:14 ESV).

As lights shining in a world of spiritual darkness (Mt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:14-16), are we not instruments of destiny? (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk 16:15-16; cf. 1 Cor. 9:16-23).

Till the last amen

Inside This Issue

Love Letter Headline “Are We Not Instruments Of Destiny?”	1
Agape Corners “The 5 “w’s” Of Influence”	2
Agape Spotlight Sister Beverly Burgess	3
Agape Considerations “Our Cell Phone Vs Our Bible”	3

Important Dates

***7/31/22 Installation Service & 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)

The 5 "W's" of Influence

One of the best ways for anyone to fully grasp and appreciate a word, an idea, or an event is to use the five "W's" of journalism: what, who, when, where, and why.

When Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 5:14-16), He was speaking of our influence. Influence is a very integral part of a Christian's life, and this can be clearly seen by using this great tool of journalism.

The WHAT of influence. Influence is the power one has in affecting a person or an event. We through our actions and words WILL affect others to do this or that, to say this or that, or to think this or that. From a scriptural point of view, each Christian has the power to influence others to do good or evil.

The WHO of influence. Who do we affect through our influence? The ones we have the most influence over is our immediate family. Our children watch us like a hawk, they watch our every move, and file in memory our every move. Children are great imitators of their parents – which shows the powerful influence parents possess. Also, by what we do (or fail to do) and say (or fail to say) we affect the lives of our neighbors, fellow Christians, and most people we come in contact with on a daily basis.

The WHEN of influence. When do we affect people through our influence? We may have an opportunity at almost any moment. Many times, if not most, we are influencing others without our knowledge. The "when" of influence may come at most any time – when we meet someone, or even when someone hears of our actions. The possibility of influence is ever present.

The WHERE of influence. Where might we be influential? Anywhere! We may be influencing others in the workplace, at home, at the ball game, in school, in the car, in the store, or in the worship assembly. Wherever we go our influence follows.

The WHY of influence. Why is our influence so important? It is important because many will be saved or lost as a result thereof. Jesus said, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Mt. 18:6). It is easy to see why influence is vitally important.

"There let you light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and GLORY YOUR FATHER [the "why"] which is in heaven" (Mt. 5:16).

AGAPE Spot Light (Highlighting Our Members)



Our dearly beloved Sister Beverly Burgess knows something about commitment and service, for 36 years she abided under the banner "Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail shall keep the postmen from their appointed rounds."

She retired from postal service in 2009. She delights in having raised a beautiful set of twins: Kendrick and Kendria.

Beverly was drawn to the Agape congregation in 2018 and loves the proximity to her home and the special feeling of family and love that she ex-

periences along with the soundness of the teaching that she has received.

Sister Burgess finds hope in the 103rd division of Psalms as it describes the Love of God. She knows that from reading these verses, no matter how difficult and painful life has been, is, or can become, she has much to praise God for.

Beverly enjoys taking care of babies and the elderly and loves helping people in general. She aspires to continue to grow in her faith and service to the Lord (and get in some travel via a cruise ship ever so often as well).

God bless your efforts Beverly, as we shine the spot light of Agape Love upon you this week.

Till the last amen.

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figure of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" Heb. 9:24

AGAPE Considerations (Activity Ministry)

Our Cell Phone Vs Our Bible



This writer wonders – "What would happen if we treated our Bibles like we treat our cell phones?"

- 1) What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets where it would be easily accessible? (Deut. 6:8).
- 2) What if we searched for it if we lost it? (2 Kn. 22:8; 2 Chron. 34:14-16).
- 3) What if we flipped through it several times a day? (Acts 17:11).
- 4) What if we used it to receive text messages? (Jas. 1:21).

- 5) What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it? (2 Tim. 4:13).
- 6) What if we gave it to our children as gifts? (Deut. 6:7; 11:19; Psa. 78:1-8).
- 7) What if we used it when we traveled? (Acts 20:20).
- 8) What if we used it in case of an emergency?
- 9) What if we upgraded it to get the latest version?
- 10) What if we retrieved it every time we mistakenly left it at home?

Something to make us ask,
hmmmmmmmmmmmmmm – "Where is my Bible?"

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.

AGAPE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

