

# 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  
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AGAPE  
 CHURCH OF CHRIST



## From The Pen Of A Free Man

“Measuring Spiritual Progress”

Bro. G. A. Freeman

Our society is fascinated with measuring things. As early as kindergarten children are taught to use a ruler and think about weight. Physicians measure children’s height, weight, and circumferences at the time they are born and then at regular checkups. With adults, they measure blood pressure, pulse, and temperature each time you visit. We are fascinated with measurements in the weather: humidity, highs and lows, dew points, and wind speed and direction. In business all kinds of things are measured: sales, quotas, employment, terminations, production, etc. And let’s not even get started on how many things the government measures!

Considering how many things can be measured, do we stop and think about measuring our personal spiritual progress? I’m sure that someone, somewhere might say, “You can’t measure that!” Can we? The fact of the matter is that anything that we may be motivated to do spiritually can be measured and God gives us plenty of spiritual activities in which we are to be engaged.

Have you made all Sunday morning services this year? (Heb. 10:25)

Have you taken any notes at church this year? (2 Tim. 2:15)

Did you review your notes later at home? (2 Pet. 1:13-15)

Did you share your notes with someone else? (Mk. 16:15)

Have you visited those in need, the elderly, the sick, the orphan? (Jas. 1:27)

Did you read your Bible last week? (1 Tim. 4:13)

Have you handed out any tract information this year? (Mt. 28:18-20)

Do you think about the words during congregational worship? (1 Cor. 14:15)

Do you sing out loud with the congregation or mumble through? (Col. 3:16)

Do you pray each day? (1 Thess. 5:17)

When last did you study the Bible with someone, outside of Church? (Acts 8:4)

In the past, when relatives have visited, have you skipped a service? (Mt. 16:24-26)

Do you prepare for your classes before attending? (1 Pet. 3:15)

These questions are not designed to make anyone feel guilty for not engaging in such activities. Neither are they designed for us to measure our own righteousness and tout that above other. These are personal questions to be answered privately by everyone, to motivate us to examine our level of spiritual health and encourage us to become more spiritual. Each of these questions are supported by scripture that they are things that we need to be doing. Some of them are specifically enjoined; others are enjoined generally. We can measure our personal level of spiritual involvement if we are open, honest with ourselves, and willing to abide by the word of God (2 Cor. 13:5). I want to encourage each one of you to take some time this week and go through this list and pick a few things upon which to focus so that your life can be more spiritual. This exercise is between you and God; there will be no test given by the preacher; there will however be a final exam one day.

Till The Last Amen

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### Important Dates

\* Coming 9/1/2022 Weekly  
 Zoom Question of Life,  
 Faith, Religion

\* Combined Worship With  
 Needville 8/28/2022

## 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;  
1 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 Spirit Of Excellence: How To Become A Spiritual Leader

The first necessary quality of a spiritual leader who “stands out” is the spirit of excellence! He who strives for excellence will not be counted among the also-rans. The question is asked, “How does a spiritual leader develop the attitude of a spirit of excellence in a day when almost anything can be passed off as good enough”? Our answer must come from God Himself. In the parable of the talents, the good servant is commended while the lazy servant is not only denounced, but his laziness is equated with wickedness Mt. 25:14-30. Let us also note Paul’s admonition, “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord” Rom. 12:11. The following are seven ways God brings about the spirit of excellence in us:

- 1) By helping us realize our own weakness 2 Cor. 12:9.
- 2) Through the prayers of others Col. 4:12; 1 Thess. 1:2.
- 3) Through someone sharing the Word with us 1 Thess. 3:10.
- 4) As we study the Bible for ourselves Josh. 1:8; Psa. 1:2; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17.
- 5) Through suffering 1 Pet. 5:10.
- 6) By giving us a “hunger” for holiness 2 Cor. 7:1.
- 7) Through a desire to have the fruit of our lives brought to perfection Lk. 8:14.

Christ, who is the “author and finisher of our faith” Heb. 12:2 waits to take over our frustrations and failures and turn them into “joyful” accomplishments that bring glory to the Lord Mt. 5:16. The One who still does “all things well” Mk. 7:37 is waiting to “make you perfect in every good work ... working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight” Heb. 13:21.

# AGAPE Spot Light (Highlighting Our Members)



Brother Keith Douglas and his family have been attending the Agape congregation for 4 years; having been first drawn by the powerful lessons and sermons that were being presented.

Young Keith involves himself in the devotions of the worship service; reading scriptures and leading in prayers.

He finds encouragement in I Pet. 5:7 where he has learned to cast his concerns on to Jesus, because He cares for us.

Brother Douglas has been gifted with artistic abilities and is looking to perfect those skills as he continues to draw and sketch and design.

Keith is interested in Automobile Engineering and is hopeful to expand his academic education along this field of enterprise.

He certainly has the outgoing personality and intestinal fortitude to see these abilities perfected and come to fruition in his bright future.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, as we shine the spot light of Agape Love upon you this week.

Till the last amen.

***"All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies" Psa. 25:10***

# AGAPE Considerations (Activity Ministry)

## Would Roses Cost A Lot Mister?



Henry Penn, the Boston florist who originated the slogan, "Say It With Flowers," told how one morning two boys

and a girl came into his florist shop and said: "We're the flower committee and we would like some nice yellow flowers, sir. Do you have any yellow flowers? He would like them better if they were yellow. He had a yellow sweater." "Are they for a funeral?" asked Penn. The children nodded "yes" and kept back the tears. "She's his sister," one of the boys explained. "He was a good kid, a truck yesterday — we were playing in the street — we saw it happen." Then the other boy added, "Us kids took up a collection. We got eighteen cents — would roses cost a lot, mister? Yellow roses?"

Touched by the story of the tragedy and the loyalty of the kids, Henry Penn replied, "I have some nice yellow roses here that I am selling for fifteen cents a dozen just this morning." The sympathetic florist accepted the fifteen cents and the committee carried away the flowers they had chosen. Said Penn, "I felt uplifted for days. I had been given the inexpressible privilege of sharing something."

As Christians, we too have that inexpressible privilege of sharing. "We have this treasure in earthen vessels" (2 Cor. 4:7). "We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us." To share the glorious Good News of salvation in Christ, "we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:20). We want all to know "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (Phil. 4:7). In love and compassion, we share the knowledge of Christ.

# 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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