

LEXINGTON Emmaus COMMUNITY



Lexington, KY

"Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way ... ?"

April 2003

AGAPE OR MEMENTO?

By Mark Carnes, National Agape Chairperson,
National Lutheran Secretariat

(Originally printed in Southern AZ Lutheran Cursillo Newsletter)

Do you have an envelope or bag at home filled with things from the weekends you have been involved in? Do you go back and read these items over and over again? Well, I do, and I can tell you I cherish each one of these memories. They give me strength when I am down. They give me encouragement when I need a push.

But are they agape or just souvenirs or mementos? The answer is, it depends. So let's make sure we all agree on what agape is and is not. From some of the things I see today, I am not sure that the distinction between agape and memento is clear.

So what makes anything agape? The answer is very easy. Agape is sacrificial. In some small way it demonstrates the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us as He gave His life that we might be saved. If your agape is not sacrificial, it is not agape. It may be a wonderful gift and very inspirational, but if it did not require sacrifice, it is not agape. Given that very simple requirement, let's examine some agape practices and see if they pass the test.

Is prayer agape? That one is easy. Prayer is sacrificial and is agape. It takes your time and energy in an important and beneficial way. It takes a real and conscious effort to pray for pilgrims on the weekend and thus prayer is agape. In fact, it is the most meaningful form of agape.

Let's try another. If I buy and give a bookmark to a pilgrim, is that agape? The answer is no. The bookmark could, however, become agape. The key here is making this a sacrificial gift. In that sense almost anything can become agape. Suppose I pray over that bookmark and ask our Lord and Savior to use it to make the passages that He knows the owner will need to guide her in her life. At that point I would say that this is agape. The moment we make our gift a sacrificial one it becomes agape. It becomes an example of our servanthood for Christ and that is the key distinction between agape and memento.

One more. If I sit down and make crosses for the pilgrims on a weekend - is that agape? The answer here is yes. If you give, as a servant, of your time in creation, then the thing that you create is agape. But, be careful. Do not make this what I call "incomplete agape." You really need to make it complete. You need to take a few minutes, each day of the weekend, to pray that the sacrifice you made will be an example to the pilgrim in his/her life. You see, the intent of agape is not to make things, but to be an example of Christ-like servanthood. You are trying to demonstrate, through your actions, the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us. This is indeed a tall order.

-- CONTINUED NEXT MONTH --

Girl's Flight #22 and Boy's Flight #23



Row 1: Lauren Cole, Dee Hunter, Donna New, Keisha Gatewood, Courtney Larkin, Paula Shafer, Stephanie Isaac, Rachel Lynch, Hannah Groves, Fawne Woosley, Kelly Demaree, Fredda Hibpshman
Row 2: Erica Wright, Sara Kandt, Donna Jones, Amanda Eddy, Erin Robinson, Sarah Trivisssonno, Carolyn Spugnardi, Brittany Hertog, Jessica Goodrich, Maxine Snively
Row 3: Jennifer Seitz, Marissa Robinson, Amy Winn, Kelli Dehr, Whitney Hibpshman, Jill Schilffarth, Casey Tolson, Cara Franke, Dori Hundley, Naomi DeHaan, Susan Anderson
Row 4: Lacy Heismann, Bonnie DeSalvatore, Kara Yonts, Lenka Kolarikova, Kelly Hamilton, Annie Kennedy, Ashlei Rogers, Kimberlee Zabilka, Emily Fortney, Emma Lee Lark, Stacy Shafer, Sandi Conley, Jerri Williams



Row 1: Jeremy Arnold, Calvin Groves, Matt Williams, Jonathan Bryant, Will Shafer, Matthew Southers, Alex Finke, Matthew Perugini, Landry Fields, Matt Seitz, Joe Schular
Row 2: Norm Galloway, Alex Miller, Chris Handy, Jerri Williams, Greg DeSalvatore
Row 3: John A. Hale, Scott Nettleton, Chris Stinnett, **removed**, Josh Hamilton, Charles Harris, Ryan Copple, Joey Groves, Stephen Squires
Row 4: Gary Williams, Brad Porter, Simba Kagoro, Tim Hamilton, David Wickstrom, Mike DeSalvatore, Ben O'Neal, Dana Clark, Lance Cutshall, Greg Williams, Brody Ruyhley, Chuck Combs, Teddy Poore, Stan Schilffarth, Fred Wiles

Report from Girl's Flight #22

Looking back at the weekend I'm reminded of the Andrae Crouch song, "Through It All." - "Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus. I've learned to trust in God." I'd just change the "I've" to "we've".

Yes, through it all -

- the postponement from the original date
- the sharing with the boy's flight #23
- the substitutions in the team for talks and jobs just days before the flight
- the mud
- the falling on the lodge stairs (at least 5 people fell)
- the toppling of the candles in the prayer vigil room
- the bathroom ceiling falling (Did I mention the mud?)

Through it all we learned to trust in God! And He blessed us abundantly! As we watched the caterpillars become butterflies through the power of the transforming love of God, we were reminded it was God's weekend and it was never out of His will.

What an awesome God we serve!

Bonnie DeSalvatore

Report from Boy's Flight #23

The weekend of February 28th - March 2nd Chrysalis Boys Flight #23 was held at Cedarmore Camp. It was an incredible weekend where God truly moved in great ways in the hearts and minds of the young men present. Friday started off with great talks and good table discussions as the caterpillars were feeling each other out. But after lunch, the gloves came off. Almost all of the caterpillars and many of the team members, regardless of athletic ability, participated in a bonding two hour experience of mud - football and mud - ultimate Frisbee. Although it wasn't "clean" it was lots of fun (with dashing athletic displays by Gary Williams and Fred Wiles) and the guys really seemed to bond at this point, which led to deep discussions at and outside of the tables. The praise and worship was also phenomenal, with the guys initiating singing several times throughout the weekend. My favorite was Saturday night after candlelight, the guys locked arms with EVERYONE in the conference

room and sang late into the night. But as great as Friday and Saturday were, Sunday was even better! The whole weekend these guys have seen, heard and felt (butt agape) God's unconditional love for them through the talks, clown communion, "agapeland" (and agape in general) and candlelight, but it really seemed to hit home when they received their bags of letters. So many letters from people they barely knew to family and close friends, all telling them that God loves them and they do to. Some said "I barely know this person" and "How did they find out" and "I haven't seen them since they moved to California" and (my favorite) "When did you guys DO all of this?" By the Sunday ending service, these young men truly had been transformed by Christ and for His glory and it is my prayer that they will always Fly with Christ.

Matt Southers

Please Be In Prayer For These Walks in other Communities

Please pray for these other communities having walks in the month of April:

April 3-6

Puget Sound Walk to Emmaus Women's # 138
North Florida Tres Dias Women's #28
Oceanside Emmaus, Fla Men's #28
Lansing, MI, Area Emmaus Women's #56
Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus Women's #46
El Shaddai, CA, Emmaus Women's #44

April 10-13

Ashland Area Men's #15
Oceanside Emmaus, Fla Women's #29

April 24-27

Ashland Area Women's #17
Central Illinois Emmaus Men's #164

www.lexingtonemmaus.org

In the very new future, some changes will be made to the community's web site. This will not be noticeable to you if you are accessing the site using the address shown above. If you are using the old address, it will soon stop working.



LEXINGTON EMMAUS WALK SCHEDULE

2003

Men's Walk #79	March 20-23
Women's Walk #80	March 27-30
Men's Walk #81	November 6 - 9
Women's Walk #82	November 13-16

Registration forms should be sent to: Lexington Emmaus Community, ATTN: Registrar, P.O. Box 23554, Lexington KY 40523-3554

Registration forms may be obtained from the above address or from our web site at: <http://www.lexingtonemmaus.org>. Information about Walks being held by other communities is also available on the website linked from our "News" page.

Address changes and phone number changes should be emailed to don@wrightsrealm.com or call (859)224-3736. Returned mail is an extra expense for the community.



LEXINGTON EMMAUS GATHERING

Friday, April 4, at 7:00 PM

**St. Luke United Methodist Church
Alumni Drive at New Circle Road
Lexington, KY**

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ for a special time of worship, communion and fellowship. Remember, we will have a pre-gathering time for fellowship at 7 PM and begin worship promptly at 7:30 PM.

Cancellation Policy: *When there is no public school in Fayette County on the day of the Gathering because of inclement weather, there will **not** be a Gathering.*

Please remember to bring a snack to share during the fellowship time. Child care is provided. We want to provide the children with appropriate snacks, so if you bring a child please also bring along an appropriate snack for them to share. A children's snack table will be set up just outside the child care room.

Have you responded to God's gifts to you with a special gift to the Community?

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