



Guidelines for Children's Agape

Agape from children in the form of pictures and simple cards

create a powerful message in reaching those in prison. This is sometimes called "Crayon Agape" or "Construction Paper Card Agape"

In order to assure the acceptance of these expressions in love and keep the focus on our mission, there are a few simple guidelines:

1. All expressions should center on God's love and His care for us.
2. Drawings and cards should not address the status of the residents as criminals or prisoners. Just focus on them as men and family members. "God loves you", "God takes care of you", "Trust God" is right on the mark. Simple scripture verses are fine. We want these to be positive, cheerful, and encouraging. We don't want to focus on their sin or hurt or need to seek forgiveness.
3. First names **ONLY** may be signed and ages, but no other identifying information should be included, such as school, church, or city.
4. No glitter.
5. Even a crayon scribble on a blue piece of paper has been known to soften a hardened heart. Trust the Holy Spirit to do His work through these children.
6. These are simply expressions of God's love for these men. It is no different than asking a child to make a cheerful drawing for a person they don't know who is in the hospital or in a nursing home.
7. We will be ministering to 42 men. They will keep these and treasure them all the time they are in prison. The children's drawings are a very powerful part of this ministry.

All expressions are needed to the retreat coordinators by the Tuesday before the retreat.