

## ***A Team Training Event***

# **Agape Guidelines**



### **Overview**

It is very important that the Team members understand the foundation of “agape” in Kairos as well as the specific requirements for various kinds of “agape” that are needed for the Kairos. The Agape Coordinator would be an appropriate person to lead the discussion on Agape. You should pass out the Ezra Handout called “Agape Guidelines.”

This presentation should not be rushed, and should encourage questions in order that everyone understands the basis of agape and the specifics of the needs. Plan on 30 minutes for the entire time.

### **Preparations**

The main preparation is to ensure that the Leader has prepared the Agape Guidelines handout, and that you have reviewed the “Talking Outline” below and are familiar with any specifics that relate to your particular Unit.

### **Talking Outline**

Your presentation on Agape to the Team centers on two sections or phases. The first phase is to build a firm foundation of understanding for the meaning of “agape” and why the Team is compelled to reach out to others in the call for agape. The second phase is to provide a good understanding of the different types of “agape” and to discuss the various sources and approaches for gathering each type of “agape.”

#### ***A. Pass out Agape Guidelines***

#### ***B. Before we talk about WHAT is Agape, it is important to understand the WHY of Agape***

- + Kairos is a ministry of passing on the love of God
- + Agape plays a major role in that endeavor
- + Agape is NOT posters, placemats, money, or cookies...
- + Agape is the love of God, passed on by His family
- + Agape is an essential tool of helping communicate that love thru the family of Christ

#### ***C. Just who is this family of Christ that delivers this love of Christ?***

- +Yes, it is the Kairos Team
- + It is also the larger Body of Christ - people of faith in our churches
- + Christ has called us ALL to visit the prisoner on His behalf, but most Christians have no concept of how to do that
- + Participating in Kairos Agape opens a door for Christians to be part of passing on Christ's love to the prisoner - even though they don't actually step behind the prison walls

#### ***D. You are an enabler for the larger Christian Community***

***(NOTE TO SPEAKER, THIS IS A CRITICAL POINT TO MAKE SURE THE TEAM UNDERSTANDS. THEY ARE NOT 'BOTHERING' PEOPLE BY ASKING FOR SUPPORT, THEY ARE PROVIDING A MECHANISM FOR THEM TO RESPOND TO CHRIST'S CALL TO VISIT THE PRISONER ON CHRIST'S BEHALF. THE TEAM MUST UNDERSTAND THIS SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE!)***

- + By going out of your way to educate and invite participation of the larger Christian

community in passing on Christ's love thru Agape, ***you are opening a door for Christians to respond to Christ's calling*** - you enable them to do what they never could envision themselves doing for Christ!

- + Never think that you are "bothering" someone by asking for them to help with Agape. You are not a beggar looking for a handout! You are an "angel" showing them a way that they can be true to the calling of Christ to visit the prisoner on His behalf.
- + Be bold in your loving offers to help the Christian community respond for Jesus.

#### ***E. Prayer is the foundation of Agape***

- + Prayer is not an afterthought - (not "if you can't supply anything "we need" then you could always pray!)
- + Prayer is the most important aspect of Agape
- + The power of Agape is not the items we call "agape," the power comes from the spiritual significance behind the gifts.
- + Prayer is the starting point for unleashing that power!
- + Pray for the community of believers to decide on becoming part of His message of love  
(NOTE TO SPEAKER - YOU MIGHT LITERALLY STOP HERE AND LEAD THE ENTIRE TEAM IN A PRAYER TO EMPOWER THEM AND THE COMMUNITY ON BEHALF OF JESUS)

#### ***F. Cookies are a tangible example of love in action by the Body of Christ***

(NOTE TO SPEAKER - IF YOUR UNIT DOES NOT USE COOKIES, YOU MIGHT JUST EXPLAIN THAT COOKIES ARE USED IN MANY KAIROS UNITS, BUT YOUR UNIT DOES NOT ALLOW THEM)

- + Rather than focusing on the need to gather so many cookies, focus on the opportunity that Kairos offers the Christian community.
- + Baking Cookies are a wonderful way that an elderly person might be able to "be in ministry" again. Or a young mother can use Kairos cookies as a teaching lesson on loving the unlovable on behalf of Jesus
- + Cookies are an opportunity to be part of the "pipeline" that will carry Christ's living waters directly to the hearts of the residents.

(NOTE TO SPEAKER - NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO ASK FOR SUGGESTIONS FROM THE TEAM ABOUT WAYS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO MAKE COOKIES)

#### ***G. Posters and Place Mats put a face on the Body of Christ!***

- + Residents see, perhaps for the first time ever, the reality of the family of God
- + Invite everyone you can think of to make a poster that expresses the love of God (Sunday School classes, Bible Study groups, office co-workers, Reunion groups, etc)
  
- + Placemats made by children have a huge impact on residents
- + Teach kids about the love of God for all persons
- + Sign only first name and age
- + Children's Sunday School classes, Church Pre School classes, children/grandchildren  
(NOTE TO SPEAKER - ASK FOR SUGGESTIONS FROM THE TEAM)

#### ***H. Personal Letters for the Kairos Weekend are really Love Letters from God***

- + Each Team member writes a letter to each of the participants
- + Let your letter express the love of God for them
- + You are simply a scribe for God - it is His love you are passing on!
- + A simple, profound message of love and hope
- + Invite other persons to write letters, too
- + Simple letters from children (no last names, but include the age) have a profound impact

(NOTE TO SPEAKER - DISCUSS SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR LETTERS FROM THE TEAM AND FROM OTHER FREE WORLD PERSONS)

#### ***I. God uses Kairos' need for financial support as a way to empower the Body of Christ!***

- + It is the Team's responsibility to raise the funds needed for the Kairos and Instructional Reunion

- + Taking the cost of the Kairos and dividing it by the number of Team, resident servants, and participants, the average cost is \$ 138 per Team member for themselves and \$ 138 for an inmate participant/servant.

*(NOTE TO SPEAKER - YOU SHOULD CHECK ON WHAT THIS AVERAGE IS FOR YOUR UNIT)*

- + So, each Team member, on average needs to raise \$ 275 to do their share in covering the cost
- + Some of us are able to simply write a check to cover that cost, but others can't.
- + Asking for financial support isn't about underwriting the cost of a Kairos - it is about providing an opportunity for responding to Christ's call to all Christians.
- + Rather than automatically thinking that you have to write a check, think about helping others participate in this great adventure for Christ
- + Ask Sunday School classes to sponsor an inmate. Other sources - Reunion groups, Bible Study groups, Friends, Family members - perhaps to sponsor you, your company.

*(NOTE TO SPEAKER - ASK THE TEAM FOR IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO RAISE THE FUNDS - REMEMBERING THAT FIRST TIME TEAM MEMBERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A TEAM-WIDE PROJECT RATHER THAN A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY)*