

WHAT IS AN "AGAPE LETTER"?

As sponsors, one of our most perplexing situations arises when we try to explain to someone what kind of letter we want from them for our pilgrims. You may want to use the following as a pattern for the one you write:

Dear _____:

The "Walk to Emmaus" is a weekend of spiritual renewal with many beautiful gifts and surprises. One such surprise is the mail that persons attending receive from their loved ones. _____ is going to attend a "Walk to Emmaus".

As sponsors, we are responsible for contacting family and close friends and asking them to send a note or letter to _____ so that s/he will receive it during this special weekend. Since it will be a total surprise, we sometimes have to do a little detective work in order to get names and addresses of persons from whom we need help. Perhaps you'd like to pass along to someone that you know _____ would like to hear from.

This letter is an opportunity for you to express your appreciation of _____ and what your relationship with him/her has meant and still means. You might want to recall some humorous event or some happening that has been special to the two of you. This is a letter of love and **WILL BE READ ONLY BY THE PERSON TO WHOM YOU WRITE.**

Would you help make _____'s "Walk to Emmaus" special by doing the following:

1. Write a letter to him/her and sign it.
2. Put it in an envelope and seal it.
3. Write his/her name (but not yours) on the envelope.
4. Put the envelope in a larger envelope and mail it to us prior to so we can get it to the proper place on time.

This should be a complete surprise to _____ so please help make it special by keeping "mum" until it's all over.

We hope you'll help us by getting a letter to us. It will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sponsor Name
Sponsor Address
Sponsor Phone

An actual letter is shown on the next page.

July 10, 2003

Dear Stephanie,

Joe and Susan Jones will be attending a Christian retreat called "Walk to Emmaus" in August; Joe on August 11-14, and Susan on August 18-21. This is a weekend of spiritual renewal with many beautiful gifts and surprises. As part of this, a few close friends and family members are being asked to write a note or letter to each of them to receive during their own special weekend.

We would like to ask for you to participate by writing to Joe and to Susan. This would be an opportunity for you to express your appreciation for them and what your relationship with each of them means to you. You might want to recall some event that has been special to each of them and you. These are letters of love and **WILL BE READ ONLY BY JOE OR BY SUSAN.**

As sponsors, we are responsible for collecting these letters. Would you help make Joe and Susan's "Walk to Emmaus" special by doing the following:

1. Write a separate letter to each of them and sign it.
2. Put them in envelopes and seal them.
3. Write their name (but not yours) on the envelopes. Write your relationship ("family", "friend", etc) in the upper left corner.
4. Put the envelopes in a larger envelope and mail it to us as soon as possible, but not later than August 1st, so we can get them to the proper place on time.

This should be a complete surprise to Joe and Susan, so please help make it special by keeping "mum" until the weekends are over.

We greatly appreciate your help. If you know of any other persons who would also care to write to Joe and/or Susan, please pass this information on to them.

If you have any questions concerning this, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you.

Bob and Mary Smith
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