

AGAPE of N.C.

Making A Difference
In the Lives of
Children
and Families

Celebrating 33 Years of Service

What is AGAPE of NC?

AGAPE IS ...

- ◆ Christian Based Program
- ◆ Faith, Compassion, and Ministry
- ◆ Responsible, Christian Integrity
- ◆ Driven by Faith and God Given Talents

AGAPE of NC UPDATE

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-11 BOD Members

- 5 Field Staff



Why is Agape Needed?

- Because the family is in trouble!
 - Over 1 million divorces in the U.S. each year
 - Over 1.5 million abortions each year in U.S.
 - Over 100,000 cases of abuse reported in N.C. each year
 - Illegitimate births at all-time high
 - Poverty rate at all-time high
 - In general, families are hurting & struggling

The Parable Of The Good Samaritan

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNecVi4QEe8>

Who is your neighbor?

We usually think of our
neighbor as someone who
lives near us.

- Is it important for us to have love for others?
- The Jews felt that they were better than the Samaritans.
 - Had little if anything to do with these people

Jews vs. Samaritan Theology

- Some similarities between Jewish and Samaritan theology were:
 - 1) They both considered themselves true worshippers of Yahweh.
 - 2) Both placed supreme importance on the Pentateuch as a detailed way of life (the Samaritans rejected the rest of the Jewish canon).
 - 3) The both looked for the Messiah (the Samaritans expected Him to rule from Mount Gerizim, and the Jews from Jerusalem).

Jews vs. Samaritan Theology

- 4) The Samaritans insisted that Mount Gerizim was the only true central sanctuary for all Israel.
- 5) The Samaritans exalted Moses to a place above normal.
- 6) The Samaritans believed basically the same as the Jews concerning final judgment, rewards, punishments, circumcision, Sabbath, dietary laws, and the ceremonial and judicial laws.

- They disliked the Samaritans so much that when Jews traveled from Jerusalem to Galilee, they would take the longer way through the Jordan Valley rather than travel through Samaria.

Lesson Learned

Our differences often contribute to us as individuals overlooking other's who are in need

Good News

- Christians have the advantage of Jesus' teaching so we know better than to be like the Jews and more like the Good Samaritan.

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10: 25-37

- Jesus told many stories, or parables, to help people learn the truth.

✦ **²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading *of it?*”**

v 27. So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’[[] and ‘your neighbor as yourself’]

²⁸ And He said to him,

“You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”

29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead.

³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.

34 So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'

**36 So which of these
three do you think was
neighbor to him who fell
among the thieves?”**

³⁷ And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Who is My Neighbor

- Pharisees did not consider non Jews their neighbor
 - In our society, people of different countries and different races are often not considered our neighbor
- God's concept of neighbor includes everyone
- Anyone who needs our help is our neighbor

How Do We Prepare Ourselves to be Good Samaritans

- Make a Conscious Decision
- Preparation
- Follow your talents and passions
- Become a leader
- Leadership
 - Simply defined, Leadership is to give direction to others who follow your example

Who is a Leader?



My Parents Godly Legacy



Incredibly High Standards

- Loving our neighbor takes a lot of commitment
 - We are often self righteous because we use the wrong standard
 - Its hard to love someone who is unlovable
 - Its an intellectual process, not an emotional process.
- Mercy
 - Luke 6: 36, Be merciful, just as your Father in heaven is merciful”
- Positive Action:
 - Mt 7:12 does not read “don’t do to others what you don’t want done to you” ...It says “do to others”

Hunger Statistics

- World wide 1.2 billion people live in varying states of hunger and malnutrition.
- IN THE USA:
 - Cir. 400,000 in greater Philadelphia area face poverty or a life of chronic hunger.
 - 40% of children in NYC live in poverty.
 - 32 million Americans live below the governments poverty line (40% children).
 - 4 million Americans live on the streets.

Children that are Suffering

- It is estimated that 153 million children worldwide, ranging from infants to teenagers, have lost one or both parents
- HIV/AIDS has orphaned 17.9 million children, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia
- Over 7 million children are in institutional care worldwide
- 19,000 children under the age of five died every day in 2011.
- Children suffer from domestic violence everywhere. On every continent, households report domestic violence against children at rates ranging from 20% to 60%.

There is Suffering and Sorrow Everywhere

- But we don't always see it or think about getting involved
- Sometimes we rationalize about getting involved
- Sometimes we simply choose not to get involved

Agape's Goal

- To Partner with Good Samaritians across NC in getting involved
- Paint a Picasso
 - “The artists does not see life as a problem to be solved, but as a medium for creation”
 - Dorthy Wayers in “Mind of the Maker”
 - Every child is that medium for creation!