

## AGAPE THOUGHTS FROM GARNET

Dear friends in Christ,

As we prepare for the August Gathering on August 10, (which of course will have come and gone, by the time you read this -- Thanks to all who were able to participate that afternoon/evening!) I have been sifting through the agape gifts I have collected in my eleven years of working on Walk weekends, and thinking and wondering how to share the wonder of these gifts with those new to the experience. Giving agape gifts is one of the great joys of the Walk weekends. The process reflects God's great love toward us, and as He loves us, we want to demonstrate that love to the pilgrims.

It seems to me that the best agape I've received is

1. **keepsake quality.** I remember the joy of blowing bubbles as we sang "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, down in my heart," and sometimes little candy treats just hit the spot. But the things I've carefully packed away or displayed around the house are real treasures. One of those treasures is a small wooden box. I marvel at the work and preparation necessary for this gift possible for a whole roomful of pilgrims and team members. That reminds me

of just how wide and big and strong God's love is toward all of us.

2. **useful.** I see almost every day two different key rings, one carefully quilted of brightly colored materials. De colores! I still read Scripture according to a little booklet that helps you read the whole Bible in one year, if you accomplish every daily assignment. (Not there yet, but what a goal!)
3. **related to a talk or a particular experience of the Walk.** Almost every time I shower, I think about that gift of a wash cloth and soap that was waiting on my pillow on Saturday, after Dying Moments, and on the way to showers. What a great reinforcement of the experience of cleansing and forgiving we had just shared!

I hope that you take time soon to think again about agape gifts you received, and that you will consider carefully what you might share with the pilgrims and team on the upcoming Fall Walks. Your new ideas and care and effort are sure to move someone closer to the loving heart of God -- and that's what we're all about.

Enjoy these last beautiful days of sunshine and blue sky and the hints of coming fall as agape from God who loves and cares about every detail of your life!

Garnet

## AUXILIARY HEADS IN TRAINING

The Auxiliary Head position is a unique blend of working hard and supervising and supporting others in their work. The Auxiliary Head directs all of the Auxiliary team as they try to anticipate and meet all the detailed physical and practical needs of the pilgrims and the team. This work is an act of agape, given so that the conference team can concentrate on the demanding tasks of teaching and sharing in the conference room.

Our community has undertaken a rather grand experiment for training

to prepare for the Walks in the near future. Harry and Elnora Wallin, Gordon Galloway, Don and Norma Pope, Cori Feldpausch, Char Wolfe, Rebecca Titus, and Bonnie Williams are sharing the job for the up-coming Fall Walks. They have planned together, divided the work, and will cooperate and help each other get things done before, during, and after the Walks. Their evaluations will determine if such a training experience is offered again soon.

The other possible training experience for this particular job would be a different "on the job training." An experienced auxiliary head could recruit and train an *assistant auxiliary head*,

with the expectation that the assistant would be an auxiliary head at some future Walk. It is even possible that the expectation would designate *the next Walk!* (Most of us belong or at least know about some organizations that train their officers in this manner -- this is not a new idea!)

If God has been nudging YOU in this direction, please watch for our follow-up report, after the Fall Walks. We will begin then to make plans for Spring Walks 2003. You can make known your interest by speaking to any Board member. Bruce and Diana Hug are currently coordinating this effort for all of us.

## PRAYER VIGIL

Yes, folks, it's that time again. No not Christmas shopping (or even back to school)! It's time to sign up for thirty minutes of prayer time. The Men's Walk is 7:00 P.M. September 12 to 7:00 P.M. September 15. The Women's Walk is 7:00 P.M. October 3 through 7:00 P.M. October 6. Keryx is 7:00 P.M. November 8 through 3:00 P.M. November 11.

You can pray for inmates at both Ionia and Boyer Rd. Correctional Institutions in the same 30 minute time slot. Remember others prayed for you, and now it's your Christian Action time. To get your favorite time, sign up early. It isn't necessary to be at the Walk site for your prayer time. Jesus and I are counting on you. ... *Mary Anne Spalding*

As noted on p.2, Mary Anne Spalding had to resign as Prayer Vigil Coordinator for health reasons. We thank her for her service and keep her in our prayers. Michon Felton has graciously stepped in for the balance of the year, and she could use your help filling the open slots, of which there are PLENTY at this time. Michon can be contacted by e-mail [msfelton@pplant.msu.edu] or by phone [517-669-5687]

