



Class AGAPE

밀알 사랑의교실

5월 Newsletter

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"Change of Heart"

Written by Seung Ho Chi (OC Volunteer)

I am not a nice guy, and certainly not warmhearted. At first, when I started Milal Class AGAPE, I had no clue what "serving others" truly meant. I was only looking out for my own benefit. I was not a "volunteer" when I started volunteering at Class AGAPE; it was more like my mom wanting me to go for a good extracurricular activity. When I went through the first day, it was awful and tiring. It was harder than I expected and my buddies (individuals with disabilities) were more severe than I had expected. Soon thereafter I decided to be the quiet volunteer who would come and go as



and become the one that people would not notice and/or remember. However, my plan to refrain became meaningless. People that I have gotten to know and have become close with during my volunteer service all know that I have a love-hate relationship with Class AGAPE. As much as I wanted to hate being at Class AGAPE, it resulted in love. Honestly, I am sure that all Class AGAPE volunteers would agree – it is not easy to be with our buddies for 6 hours and take good care of them. On the other hand, the challenges I faced as I volunteered gave me an opportunity to learn how to love because I truly learned how to love my buddies and became more dedicated in my role as a 'volunteer'. It might seem trivial to an outsider, but to me, my experience with Class AGAPE made me discover love, friendship, and the true meaning of *servicing (helping) others*. As I look back at what I have learned throughout my time at Class AGAPE and think of further self-improvement that Class AGAPE would provide, how can I possibly hate Class AGAPE even for the absurdly challenging and grueling times that I spent with my buddies?

Every Saturday during Class AGAPE I look around and observe what is going on and think that the few hours that I spend with my buddies on a weekly basis might not really make a huge difference. Sometimes, I ask myself "why am I doing this, and what am I getting out of it?" These questions, I think, at some point during our volunteer service, all cross the minds of the volunteers at Class AGAPE. It is not easy to take care of and hang out with our buddies because you always question whether what you are doing is "right" and if it will truly make difference. Furthermore, with minimal verbal communication and various unexpected behaviors, volunteers need to focus and stay alert at all times. Sometimes, as a volunteer, I was so caught up on making sure I was doing things "right" and now, I laugh as I recall being so uptight and worried-sick about something that *could* happen. As I learned more and more about the purpose of Class AGAPE, I realized that I really did not understand my purpose as a volunteer. Being at Class AGAPE was about *being* there with a sincere heart to serve; whether it makes a small or big difference, it was still better than not serving at all.



Coming to this realization was a rough road for me because I was unhappy about *being* there to begin with. But now, it is totally a different story – my Mom keeps preventing me from attending Milal events because it has come up higher on my list of priorities! It might seem like this is just the same-old story about how a time spent with individuals with disabilities changed the heart of a typical high school teenager; but once I discovered the treasure in the time I spent at Class AGAPE with our buddies, there was no question about if I should stay and/or the reason why.

Join us at 2014 Camp AGAPE!

It's that time again! We are now taking registrations for 2014 Camp AGAPE. Please be advised that there is limited number of spaces available. Applications will be accepted in the order received along with payment in full.

사랑의캠프를 참석하기 위해 접수를 시작하였음을 알려드립니다. 접수는 신청서와 캠프비를 받는 순서대로 결정될 것이며 자리가 많이 없는 관계로 빨리 접수를 해 주시기를 바랍니다.

"Be Joyful, All the Time!"

When: June 26-28, 2014

Where: University of California, Santa Barbara

Fee: \$180 (Cash / Check)

Requirements:

1. Mandatory 2 hour Volunteer Training

() June 6th (Friday), 2014 (7 – 9 PM)

@ Cerritos Presbyterian Church

() June 13th (Friday), 2014 (7 – 9 PM)

@ Cerritos Presbyterian Church

Cerritos Presbyterian Church (11840 E. 178th Street Artesia, CA 90701)

2. Mandatory Volunteer Camp AGAPE Workshop

June 21st, 2014 | 08:30 AM – 05:00 PM

Nachimban Church (1200 W Lambert Rd, Brea, CA 92821)

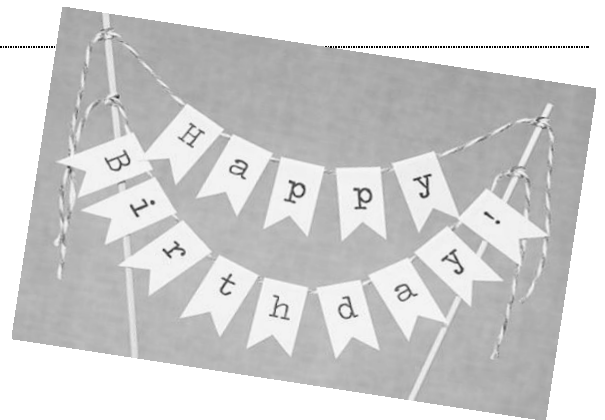


Camp AGAPE is 2 nights and 3 days (Thursday – Saturday); You are required to depart at 12:30 PM on Thursday and return on Saturday approximately at 5 PM. If you need to make arrangements due to a personal issue, please speak to Sarah Lee (Education Director) PRIOR to registering to attend 2014 Camp AGAPE.

Registration Deadline: May 31st, 2014

Happy Birthday to our Participants, Volunteers, and Staff!

May 1st	OC: Justin Ko	May 17th	OC: Lina Elyossri
May 4th	IRV: Haeun Bang		LA: Richard Kim
May 5th	IRV: Namkiko Naka	May 21st	IRV: Christine Chang
May 6th	LA: David Cho	May 23rd	OC: Erika Yi
	IRV: Ms. Sandie Hong		OC: Chris Lee
May 8th	LA: Jason Park		IRV: Elliot Kim
May 10th	Esthel Nam	May 24th	OC: Jonathan Shin
May 11th	LA: Mino Chough	May 26th	IRV: Earnest Lee
May 13th	TOR: Elle Nam	May 27th	OC: Audrey Cho
		May 28th	IRV: Yeonu Choi



C l a s s A G A P E L o c a t i o n s :

Orange County (2000년 8월 6일)	Los Angeles (2002년 4월 20일)	East Los Angeles (2003년 4월 5일)	Irvine (2007년 4월 28일)	Torrance (2008년 9월 13일)
남가주동신교회	충현선교교회	선한청지기교회	베델한인교회	토랜스제일장로교회
Dong Shin Presby. Church	Choong Hyun Mission Church	Good Stewards Church	Bethel Korean Church	Torrance First Presb.
담임목사: 손병렬 2505 Yorba Linda Blvd. Fullerton	담임목사: 민종기 5005 Edenhurst Ave. LA	담임목사: 송병주 2701 Woodgate Dr. W. Covina	담임목사: 손인식 18700 Harvard Ave. Irvine	담임목사: 1880 Crenshaw Blvd. Torrance
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