



JOURNAL



AGAPE NEWS



TOP ARTICLES OF THE MONTH

CHARITY BEGINS WITH US

By Pastor John McCain



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Charity, a profound expression of love, holds a paramount place in the teachings of the Scriptures. It is often equated with love, as seen in 1 Corinthians 13, where the Apostle Paul elucidates the supreme importance of love in the life of a believer. He states, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (1 Corinthians 13:13, KJV). This passage highlights that among the cardinal virtues of faith, hope, and charity, charity (or love) is the greatest.

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The plight of the homeless and those in need is a matter deeply embedded in the teachings and compassion of the Scriptures. The Bible repeatedly calls for the faithful to extend kindness, support, and love to the less fortunate, including the homeless.

HOMELESS NOT HELPLESS

By Pastor John McCain

CHARITY BEGINS WITH US

A LOVE ARTICLE

By John McCain

>>> CHARITY IS AN EMOTION DEMONSTRATED THROUGH ACTIONS

Charity is not merely an emotion but is demonstrated through actions. It is about showing kindness and compassion to others, especially to those in need, without expecting anything in return. Jesus Christ Himself exemplified charity in His earthly ministry, teaching His followers to "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you," (Luke 6:27) and to care for the least among us, as He said, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40).

CHARITY MEANS LOVE

Did you know that the word charity is actually deeply-rooted in scripture and embodies love in action?
1 Cor. 13:1-3

>>> A VITAL EXPRESSION OF OBEDIENCE

Therefore, charity is an essential aspect of the Christian life, reflecting God's love to the world and fostering a spirit of generosity and kindness. It is through charity that believers can truly demonstrate the love of Christ, making it a vital expression of faith and obedience to God's commandments.



HOMELESS NOT HELPLESS

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

By Pastor John McCain

>>> GENEROSITY FOR THE POOR

In the book of Proverbs, wisdom speaks to the importance of caring for the poor and needy, stating, "Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him" (Proverbs 14:31). This reflects the biblical principle that all people are created in the image of God, and how we treat the least among us is a reflection of our reverence and love for our Creator.

EXPERT ADVICE

Be like Jesus Christ
who taught his
followers to be
compassionate to those
in need. Serving the
homeless is serving our
Lord himself.

>>> THE EARLY CHURCH GAVE

Moreover, the early church demonstrated a profound sense of community and support for one another, including those who were poor or homeless. Acts 2:44-45 records, "And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need." This communal life was a testament to their commitment to live out the teachings of Jesus in practical ways.



AGAPE MEANS LOVE

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

A Message from the President

>>> INTRODUCING AGAPE GIFT BAGS

I had a vision a few years ago about a homeless man sleeping in a tent--his feet were bruised and uncovered. In my vision, I said to myself, "If this man only had on a pair of socks, he would be far better off knowing his feet were protected."

I later mentioned this vision to two kind and caring people who now serve on the Board of directors for the Church. They thought, "Wow, what a great idea, let's do it." And that got me to thinking that maybe we could do IT.

We could donate socks to the homeless in various shelters and so we did. To make a long story short, we started the National Agape Gift Bags Sock Ministry and we have since donated hundreds of pairs of socks to those in need!

As impressive as that is, it is not nearly enough. Socks continue to be the number one most requested item in shelters, so there is always a need for them.

Here's where you come in: we need your help to continue providing socks and other necessary items to those in need. I came up with the clever idea of putting the items in gift bags so that those receiving them would feel special because someone cared. That someone is you.

Each Agape Gift Bag is filled with socks, toiletries, and other items such as hats, gloves, lotion, soap, etc. Each bag costs \$20 to fill properly. Please consider donating to this worthy cause today. It's as easy as visiting our Web site: www.21CCOC.org. Click on the **GIVE** button.

In His Name,
John McCain
Pastor John McCain

