

## Bloomington Normal Great Banquet--Sponsor Instructions

Thanks for sponsoring a guest to attend the Great Banquet. We appreciate your sponsorship!

**Explain what the Great Banquet is:** The Great Banquet is a three-day (7:00pm Thursday – 7:00 pm Sunday) (Awakenings: 2 days, Friday, 11am- Sunday 5pm) spiritual retreat weekend of renewal, learning, and sharing in the atmosphere of a Christian community

This weekend experience is for anyone who:

1. Wishes to strengthen his/her spiritual life;
2. Wants to have a better understanding of prayer, study, and Christian action;
3. Strives to live a Christian life that bears fruit for God;
4. Seeks to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and to make Him known

**Contact:** your guest to confirm his/her attendance and let the registrar know if he/she cannot attend

your guest's relatives and friends requesting personal agape letters (see below)

**Consider:** making pillow agape which can be left with the Agape Chapel on Thursday night or signing up to serve a meal

### Act:

- Help your guest complete the registration form
- Fill out your part of the form, and email it to the registrar
- Make transportation arrangements to and from the camp
- Assist your guest with registration and mingling on Thursday evening
- Collect agape letters and ensure they are at the camp by Saturday evening (see next page for a sample)

### Pray for your guest

**Attend:** Sponsor's hour Thursday night at 8:00 pm (Awakenings: Friday, Noon); Apostolic Hour on Saturday at 8:30 pm followed by Candlelight; Fourth day meeting with your guest (no Fourth day meeting for Awakenings)

**Cost:** The cost of meals, lodging, and supplies for the weekend is \$240/person (\$200/person for Awakenings). Payment for the full amount is not required, however, we do appreciate any donation you can give to help cover the costs. No guest will be prevented from attending a weekend based on ability to pay.

**Thank you for supporting your guest in their desire to grow closer to Christ!**

**Note:** An electronic copy of this sample letter will be sent to the sponsor in a confirmation email after receiving the application. This should make it easy to put the sample into emails to friends/ family to request agape letter.

**Sample Agape Letter:**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

*The purpose of this letter is to ask you to write a personal letter to \_\_\_\_\_, who is attending a Great Banquet weekend on \_\_\_\_\_. This is a spiritual retreat with time for personal reflection and spiritual renewal. The letter that you write is intended to be an affirmation and an encouragement. \_\_\_\_\_ does not know he/she will be receiving the letters so please keep the surprise. The letters are entirely personal and confidential. The following are ideas that you may wish to include:*

- *How you admire and/or respect \_\_\_\_\_*
- *How much he/she means to you*
- *Any special memories, serious or humorous, that you cherish about him/her*
- *Any hopes and dreams you may have for \_\_\_\_\_*
- *How thankful you are for the opportunity to know \_\_\_\_\_ and be able to write him/her a letter.*

*You can make the letter any length you wish, and it can be hand-written or typed. Upon completing the letter, enclose it in an envelope with your guest's first and last names on the front and mark the envelope's upper right corner with your relationship such as "Family" or "Friend." Then, seal the envelope and mail it to me in another envelope to my address listed below or drop it by my house. If you'd prefer to email or text your letter to me, please be assured I will not read it, but will print it off and place in a sealed envelope.*

*It's important to note that I need to have your letter no later than Wednesday, \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Thank you for your willingness to be an important part of \_\_\_\_\_'s weekend. The letters are often a very special part of the Great Banquet experience. If you have any questions, you're welcome to contact me.*