



**Testimonianza  
d'amore**

**A Witness  
of love**

**Témoignage  
d'amour**



(nella copertina) TESTIMONIANZA D'AMORE: Il giovane Ennio Saccomani ha lavorato ben sei mesi alla teleferica di Agàpe, pronto sempre ad ogni servizio straordinario oltre alla sua giornata già molto lunga. Accanto a lui il suo « ammiratore » Daniele Gay di sei anni, che insieme ai fratellini più piccoli scrisse e musicò un inno di Agàpe.

(cover photo) A Witness of love: Young Ennio Saccomani has worked a full six months on the cable-lift of Agape, always ready to perform any extra service in addition to a very long working day. Beside him is his six year old admirer Daniele Gay, who, together with his younger brothers, composed a hymn of Agape.

(sur la couverture) Témoignage d'amour. Le jeune Ennio Saccomani a travaillé six mois au téléphérique d'Agapè; il est toujours prêt à rendre service, même après une très longue journée de travail. A côté de lui, le petit Daniel Gay l'admire; il a six ans, avec ses frères plus jeunes que lui, il a écrit et mis en musique un chant d'Agapé.

(a lato). Una delle tre rampe del corridoio che collega fra di loro le costruzioni del villaggio.

(left) One of the ramps of the corridor connecting the buildings of the village.

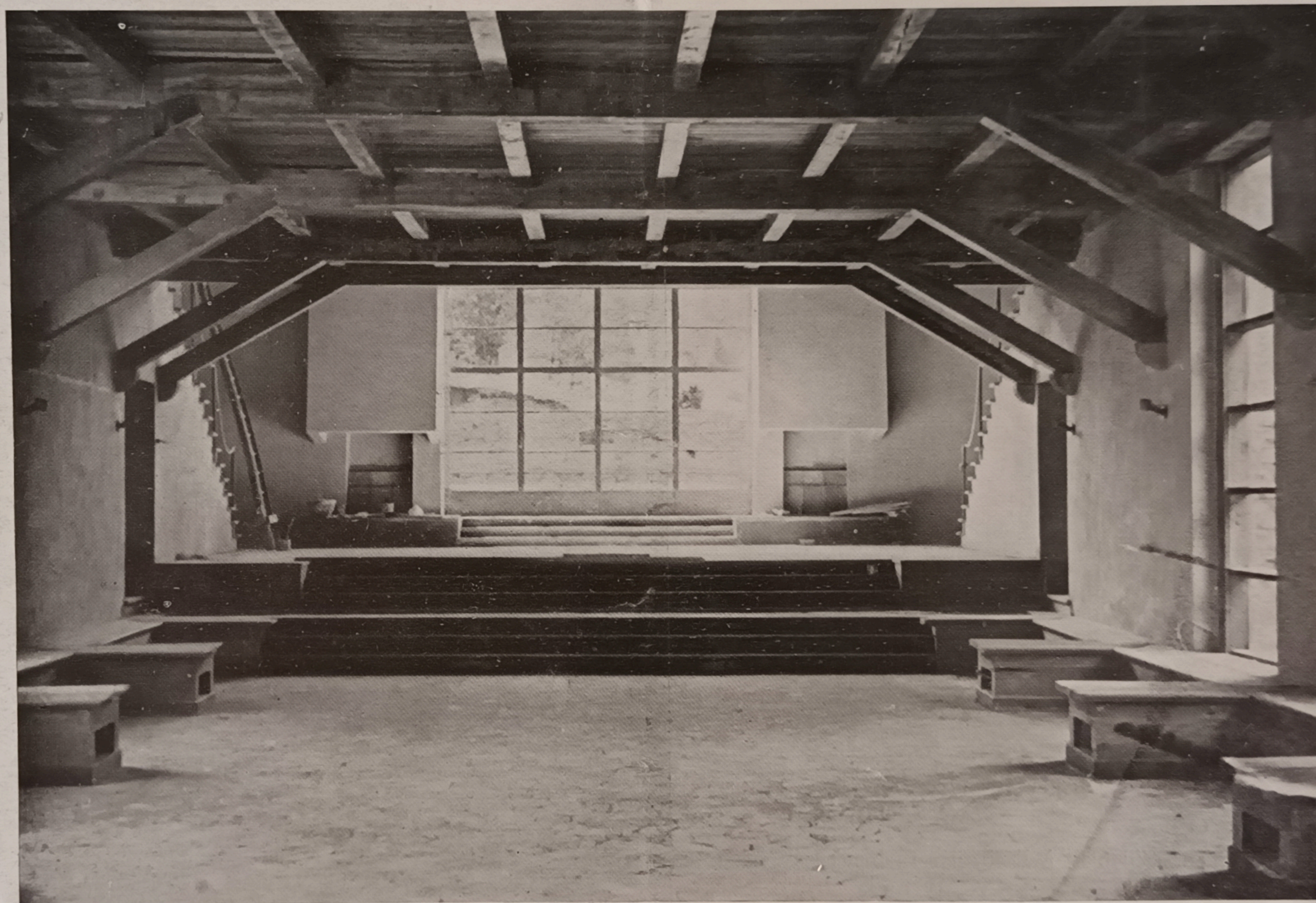
(à gauche) Une partie du passage couvert qui relie entre elles les maisons Agapé.

Ecco uno scorcio dell'austera facciata dell'edificio centrale. Il tempio dell'amore di Cristo aprirà, se Dio vuole, le sue porte l'estate prossima.

Here is one end of the austere façade of the main building. God willing, the temple of the love of Christ will open its doors next summer.

L'austère façade du grand bâtiment. S'il plaît à Dieu, il sera inauguré l'été prochain.





La parte anteriore del grande salone è molto bella per l'armonia delle sue linee. Essa può divenire facilmente una scena per il dramma religioso, come pure centro di raccolta dei campisti dinanzi la vetrata e presso i camini.

The forward portion of the large salon is very handsome for the harmony in its lines. It can easily become a stage for religious drama, as well as a gathering place of the campers before the glass doors and near the fireplaces.

L'harmonie de ses lignes fait ressortir la majesté de la grande salle. La surélévation pourra être aménagée en scène et permettra la présentation de drames religieux.

Uno dei due camini che si trovano ai lati della grande vetrata.

One of the two fireplaces on either side of the great glass doors.

Une des deux cheminées qui encadrent la grande baie vitrée.





Il grande salone, visto dal fondo, con la doppia fila del pancale che forma tanti cenacoli. Caratteristica di Agàpe è il fatto che in essa nessuno può vivere per conto proprio nè, per contro, essere disperso nella massa. Ciascuno è naturalmente portato a vivere nel suo gruppo o famiglia, e tutte le famiglie insieme formano la comunità.

The large salon, viewed from one end, with the double line of window seats which form so many nooks. Characteristic of Agape is the fact that no one may live by himself, nor, on the other hand, be lost in the numbers. Each individual tends naturally to live in his group or family, and all the families together form the community.

Remarquez la disposition des bancs de la grande salle, Chaque campeur sera incorporé dans un groupe, sans être perdu dans la masse. Tous les groupes, comme autant de familles, formeront la communauté.



La grande vetrata attraverso la quale si ha il panorama del « Cappello d'Envie » da ogni punto del salone.

The large glass doors through which one has the panorama of the « Cappello d'Envie » from every point in the salon.

Par la grande baie vitrée, on voit de partout le Chapeau d'Envie.



Uno dei lavori più importanti eseguiti quest'anno è la costruzione della strada che conduce ad Agàpe, essa è ormai a cento metri dalla mèta. Questo è il ponte sul torrente.

One of the most important projects executed this year was the building of the road which leads to Agape. It is at present one hundred meters from the goal. Shown here is the bridge over the stream.

La route, construite cette année, a exigé de gros efforts. Voici le pont qui franchit le torrent.



La facciata dell'edificio centrale vista dal bosco sottostante.  
« Agape è una consolazione in terra » disse un giorno una lavoratrice.  
Certo, il valore di Agàpe, per i sacrifici e le speranze che rappresenta, è molto superiore al suo costo materiale.

The facade of the main building as seen from the wood below. « Agape is a consolation on earth » said one of the girl workers one day. Certainly, the value of Agape, with the sacrifices and hopes it embodies, is far above its actual cost.

La façade du bâtiment principal, vue d'en bas. Une travailleuse disait : « Agapè est une consolation, sur la terre ! » Tout ce qu'Agapè a coûté de peines et de sacrifices, tout ce qu'il représente comme espérance a plus de valeur que tout l'argent dépensé.





# *A Witness of love*

Agape will be inaugurated, God willing, in August. The fatigue of the young workers who, for the love of Christ, have given of their time, their money, and their strength, shall not have been in vain. The dream, so often awaited in the midst of the hopes and anxieties of a youth held constantly aware of the spiritual, material, and social status of Agape, shall become a reality.

On the far wall of the outdoor chapel we shall read the song of the love of Christ, the hymn of the apostle: « Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal .... Charity suffereth long, and is kind.... beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things ». It is in order that this hymn should not be hollow that Agape has risen. It is in order that the faith may be made firm in the work of willing hands, that the rock has been excavated, stone placed on stone, that the building has sprung forth. A sign of the Kingdom, not a tiny oasis for an isolated few. Open to the world, as its windows are open towards the peaks of the mountains and the depths of the valley, so that we can derive our inspiration from the summit of the mountains, and an echo can descend which resounds in the factories, in the small shops of the craftsmen, in the university halls in the army posts, in the prisons, in the prison camps, everywhere the future may find or carry us.

Witness of Agape... a witness of young people of twenty-eight nations and of every Christian confession, witness of those who have known something of the height and depth of the love of Christ; witness also of so many young people who have barely caught the breath of it, but who can never again forget it, because it is never in vain that we draw near to the Gospel.

A witness of young people who will know how to be bound by a mild, firm duty to be bearers of peace in time of war; heralds of reconciliation in times of hatred, witnesses of the God who loved them before He was loved by them.

A witness of young people who know that God has no consideration for peoples, nor classes, nor nations, but all are brought together by a boundless love. A witness of brotherhood.

What purpose does this witness serve? The world lives in the atmosphere of a war which seems to break forth from one moment to the next. The sharpness of the contrasts and the serious nature of the dangers are not to be underestimated. But not less steadfast must be the witness of all Christians. He who has shared the experience of Agape knows that it is still valid, perhaps even more so in the moments of the manifest human tragedy: God loved a world unworthy of His love. To love the world in the light of the Gospel: this is the meaning of your witness... if you would be found faithful. To love not with the judgement which condemns, but with the power that succours, in the bread to the hungry, in the hope to the hopeless, in a living union with every man, knowing that each man must restore his likeness to the image of God.

Upon this witness lives the divine promise: CHARITY NEVER FAILETH.

CARLO GAY

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## Témoignage d'amour

L'inauguration d'Agapè aura lieu, s'il plaît à Dieu, en août de cette année. L'effort des jeunes travail-  
leurs volontaires qui, par amour du Christ, ont consacré leur temps, leur argent et leurs forces à cette  
oeuvre, n'aura pas été inutile. Nous avons vécu des années d'anxiété et d'espérance, mais nous pouvons dire  
aujourd'hui que le rêve d'une jeunesse qui n'a pas eu peur des difficultés de tout ordre se réalise enfin.

Dans l'église en plein air nous chanterons l'hymne de l'amour : « Quand je parlerais les langues des hom-  
mes et des anges, si je n'ai pas l'amour, je ne suis qu'un airain qui résonne ou une cymbale qui retentit...  
L'amour est patient; il est plein de bonté; il excuse tout, il croit tout, il espère tout, il supporte tout ».

Agapé est née comme l'écho de ce cantique. La montagne a été coupée, les murs se sont élevés, les mai-  
sons ont été construites comme un signe de la nécessité que la foi s'exprime dans le travail des mains et  
dans la communion réelle des coeurs unis dans l'attente du Royaume des cieux.

Agapé doit devenir un signe du Royaume et non un ermitage réservé à quelques privilégiés désireux de  
vivre loin du monde. Elle doit rester ouverte au monde, comme ses fenêtres sont ouvertes vers les sommets  
des montagnes et vers le fond des vallées. Nous pourrons ainsi recevoir d'en Haut l'inspiration et la por-  
ter comme un écho, qui ne se perd pas mais qui résonne dans les fabriques, dans les cachots, dans les camps  
de concentration, partout où l'avenir nous trouvera ou nous conduira.

Le témoignage d'Agapé, c'est le témoignage des jeunes de 28 pays et de toutes les confessions chré-  
tiennes. C'est le témoignage de ceux qui ont commencé à comprendre « la profondeur et la hauteur » de  
l'amour du Christ, et c'est aussi l'expression des jeunes, qui en ont à peine averti le parfum, mais qui ne  
peuvent plus l'oublier, parce qu'on ne s'approche pas en vain de l'Évangile.

Agapé doit rappeler à ces jeunes qu'ils sont unis par le lien d'une douce et grave consigne : devenir et  
rester des messagers de la paix et de la réconciliation en ces temps de haine et de guerre, être des témoins du  
Dieu vivant, qui les a aimés avant qu'ils l'eussent aimé.

Quel est le sens de ce témoignage? Le monde vit dans l'angoisse d'une guerre qui peut devenir univer-  
selle. On ne peut pas oublier les ténèbres de notre temps. Mais la crainte et la douleur ne doivent pas étouffer  
la voix des chrétiens. C'est aujourd'hui que le message de la charité doit être vécu. Dieu a aimé un monde  
qui ne méritait pas son amour. Nous devons, comme membres de la communauté d'Agapé, aimer le monde  
à la lumière de l'Évangile : c'est la charité qui ne juge pas, mais qui tend la main aux fatigués, romp son pain  
avec ceux qui ont faim et soif, vit avec les désespérés en jouissant avec eux de l'espérance du Royaume.  
C'est la charité qui crée une solidarité vivante avec tout homme, en sachant que nous devons tous refaire notre  
image à l'image du Christ.

Sur ce témoignage resplendit la promesse de l'Évangile : « LA CHARITE NE PERIT JAMAIS ».

CARLO GAY



Vi è festa fra i lavoratori: l'Ingegnere di Agàpe, Ing. Costantino Messina si è sposato con la Sig.na Eldina Bellion, ex lavoratrice. Il matrimonio è stato celebrato nella chiesa all'aperto di Agàpe.

There's rejoicing by the workers as the Agape engineer, Costantino Messina, takes for his bride Miss Eldina Bellion, former worker. The marriage was celebrated in the outdoor chapel of Agape.

C'est jour de fête! L'ingénieur d'Agapè Costantino Messina épouse une ancienne « travailleuse » Mademoiselle Eldina Bellion. Le mariage a été célébré en l'église d'Agapè.



(sopra) I muratori di Agàpe — amici solidali sempre coi volontari.  
(sotto) In questo gruppo di lavoratori sono rappresentate dieci nazioni: dietro, da sinistra a destra, Svezia, Italia, Nuova Zelanda, Gran Bretagna, sotto, USA, Canada, Svizzera, Germania, Egitto, Olanda.

(above) The masons of Agape... ever firm friends with the volunteers.  
(below) Ten nations are represented in this group of workers. Rear row, left to right: Sweden, Italy, New Zealand, Great Britain... front row: U.S.A., Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Egypt, Holland.

(en haut) Les maçons d'Agapè collaborent fraternellement avec les volontaires.  
(en bas) Un groupe de travailleurs venant de dix pays différents. Au fond, de gauche à droite: Suède, Italie, Nouvelle Zélande, Grande Bretagne. En dessous: U.S.A., Canada, Suisse, Allemagne, Egypte, Pays-Bas.



(in alto) Tre ragazze che lavorano come uomini. Sono addette al rifornimento calce.  
 (in basso) Quando le mura di Agapé si alzano, il lavoro diviene un canto di amore!

(upper) Three girls who do men's work. They are responsible for supplying lime.  
 (lower) When the walls of Agapé go up, the work becomes a song of love!

(en haut) Trois jeunes filles travaillent comme des hommes. Elles préparent le mortier.  
 (en bas) Pour élever les murs d'Agapé, le travail se change en un chant d'amour.



Edward Buckley (USA) è stato il primo capo-squadra della strada. Sta aprendo la via nel bosco. Il secondo capo-squadra della strada di quest'estate è stato un altro americano, Bob Mabbs; ambedue molto amati da tutti.

Howard Buckley (U.S.A.) was the first squad-leader on the road. He is helping clear the way through the wood. The second squad-leader on the road this summer was another American, Bob Mabbs, both well-loved by all.

Edward Buckley (U.S.A.) le premier chef d'équipe de la route trace le chemin dans le bois. Le second chef d'équipe et la route a été un autre Américain Bob Mabbs, chacun les aime.

## Quel che significa per me Agape

## What Agape means for me



Agàpe è il luogo dove ho incontrato uomini che insieme lavorano e insieme cercano l'amore fraterno. Anch' io ho partecipato a questa esperienza e ho fatto una scoperta non certo nuova ma che solo là ho compreso nella sua profonda e stupefacente realtà: l'amore di Dio verso le sue creature. Ho visto questo amore spingere persone diverse per nazionalità, cultura, abitudine, le une verso le altre per vivere una vita in comune, sotto il segno della grazia. Ho ritrovato la gioia del donare senza rimpianti e il senso della nostra vocazione nel tempo attuale (Maria Luisa Villani, stud. in lettere, Firenze).



I humbly thank God for what He has taught me in Agàpe. Before, I knew that all I could do was sin: there I learnt that there is a work which He who justifies me will graciously accept. This work is no social function, no humanistic love: by His Spirit it must be praised for His Salvation, an act of the incarnate man, Agape answering His Agape. In work I must not be careful for myself: I must give my body unsparingly to the toil and sacrifice myself utterly to Him, trusting that he will strengthen me for whatever task he ordains. Of such servants alone can God build his communities. (John Strugnell, Divinity Student, Oxford).



Als ich zuerst von Agàpe hörte, fand ich es ausmassend, ein menschliches Bauwerk « Agàpe » zu benennen. Aber schon nach wenigen Arbeitstagen musste ich erleben, dass « Agàpe », die Liebe, die von Gott herkommt, unter Menschen Gestalt annimmt. Wir haben es Tag für Tag erleben dürfen, dass Gott *seine* Liebe in unser Zusammensein hineinschenkt. Aus einer freuden, durch Nationalitäten und Weltanschauungen gespalten Gemeinschaft macht Gott *seine* Gemeinde. Wer dieses Wunder der « Agàpe » erlebt hat, kann nicht ablassen, Gott zu danken und allen weiterzusagen: Sehet, welche Liebe hat uns der Vater erzeigt! (1 Joh 3, 1) (Wolfram Kortendieck, ein Ingenieurstudent aus Hamburg, der Grösste unter den vier Deutschen, die in der Früh mit einem Lied die Arbeiter weckten).

## Was Agape für mich bedeutet

## Ce que Agapé signifie pour moi



Ho lavorato molto tempo a Agàpe e sempre con l'entusiasmo dei primi giorni perchè in essa ho trovato e gustato quel che avevo creduto impossibile, una sincera vita comunitaria. Vi si ha non solo il senso dell'universalità della Chiesa, perchè i lavoratori sono di tutte le denominazioni eppure tutti confessano l'unico Signore, ma anche la visione di quel che potrebbe essere questo mondo nelle fraterne relazioni fra le nazioni e le classi. Ad Agàpe siamo tutti un corpo solo, una sola comunità in Cristo, con un solo amore, una sola speranza ed una sola fede. Tornata a casa tutto ciò è divenuto il fondamento della mia vita e non dubito sulle possibilità future del villaggio quando dietro di me ho questa esperienza. (Miriam Saccomani, stud. Roma).



« Because of the love we know in Jesus Christ, Agape stands today as one of the many symbols of the truly living and dynamic Christian church and more important as a testimony of our oneness in Jesus Christ.

Today, not only a material Agape stands in the Waldensian Valleys of the Italian Alps, but a spiritual Agape is binding together the many workers from many countries the world over and tomorrow through the programs, conferences and continued work on Agape, the spirit of Christ will ever increase our common fellowship ». (Carl Bade, Teacher, Missouri).



Agapé est réellement une école de vie communautaire fondée sur Jésus Christ. Dans les camps habituels de la jeunesse chrétienne, qui durent une semaine au maximum, on a l'impression d'être pour un temps en dehors de la vie. A Agapé, c'est la vie réelle avec ses joies et ses souffrances. Chacun est obligé d'être lui-même, avec toute sa misère; c'est alors difficile de vivre ensemble. Mais l'amour de Dieu nous unit et fait de nous une communauté de frères. Agapé, c'est la certitude que Dieu nous aime, et qu'ainsi il nous est possible de nous aimer les uns les autres. (Françoise Poirier, Etud. en médecine, Montreux-Suisse).



Agàpe con i suoi tre dormitori collegati fra loro e col caseggiato centrale da un corridoio coperto. In basso si vede anche la grande terrazza e la chiesa all'aperto.

Agape with its three dormitories and main building all united by a covered passageway. Below may be seen the large terrace and the outdoor chapel

Les trois maisonnettes d'Agapè sont reliées au bâtiment principal par un passage couvert. En bas : La grande terrasse et l'église en plein air.



Ad Agàpe abiteranno per i campi e conferenze giovani di tutto il mondo. Ora, i lavoratori di tutto il mondo che la costruiscono abitano invece in questo villaggetto di baracche e di tende, in basso nella valle.

To Agapè will come the youth of all the world for camps and conferences. At present, workers from all points of the globe, engaged in the construction, live instead in this tiny village of barracks and tents, below in the valley.

A Agapè des jeunes du monde entier se retrouveront pour des camps et des conférences. Pour l'instant les travailleurs venus des quatre coins du monde logent dans des baraques et des tentes au fond de la vallée.

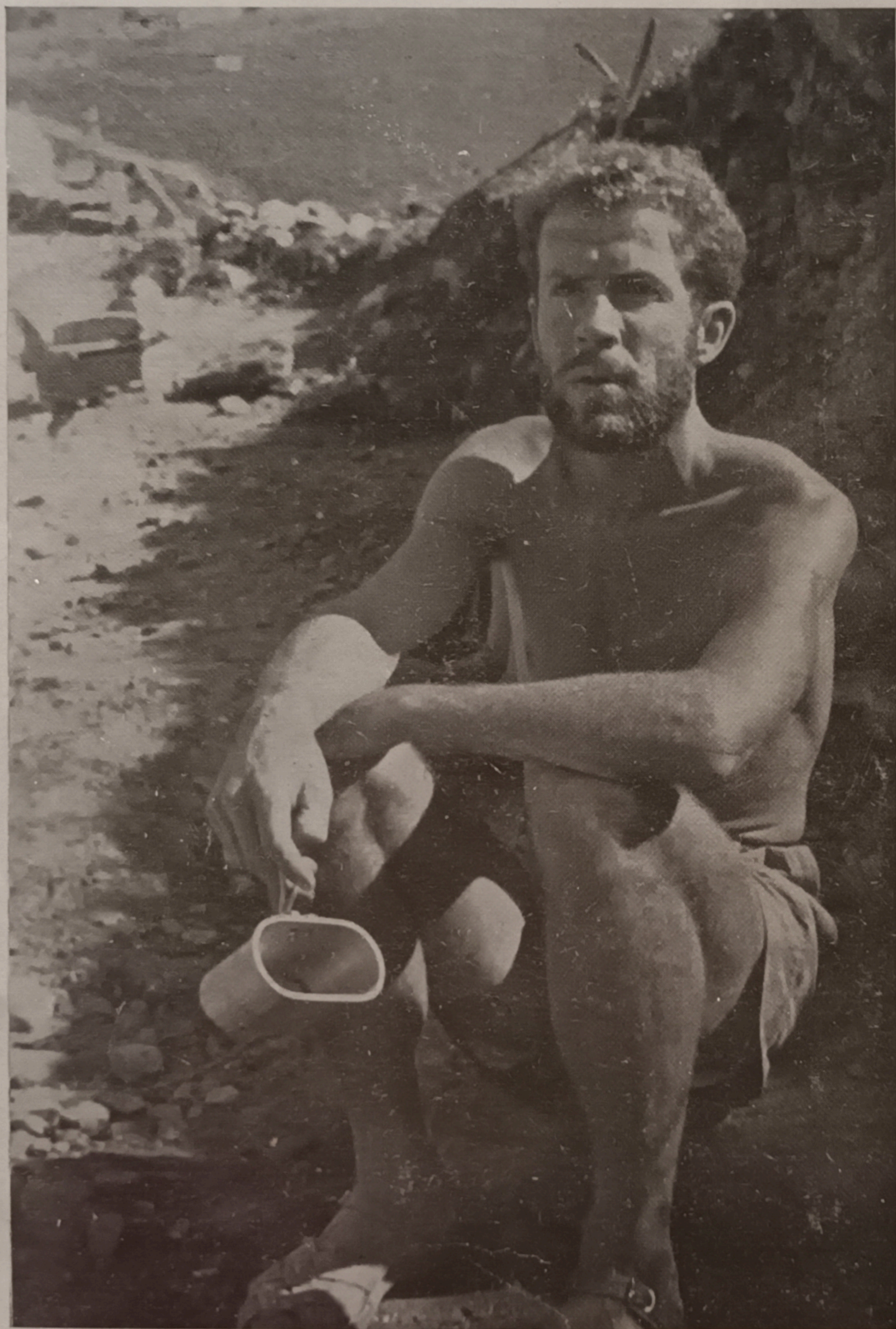


Gli ultimi lavoratori possono pure ritornare contenti: la mèta è quasi raggiunta! Ancora una stagione di lavoro e di sacrifici poi Agàpe sarà una realtà.

The last of the workers may well return content: the goal is almost attained. One more season of work and sacrifice and Agape shall be a reality

Les derniers travailleurs peuvent rentrer chez eux contents. L'oeuvre est presque achevée, encore un effort et quelques sacrifices et Agapé sera une réalité.





O Signore, abbiamo voluto costruire un monumento al tuo amore, ma quante volte sulla lunga e faticosa via di Agape, abbiamo dovuto fermarci dinanzi a te, come mendicanti! Benedici Tu la nostra fatica e rendi stabile l'opera delle nostre mani.

Oh Lord, we have wished to build a monument to Thy love, but how many times on the long and tiring road to Agape have we been obliged to stop before Thee, as suppliants! Bless Thou our weariness and render lasting the works of our hands.

O Seigneur, nous avons voulu élever ce signe à ton amour, mais combien de fois sur le long et difficile chemin d'Agapé, nous avons dû nous arrêter devant toi comme des mendiants! Sanctifie nos efforts et affermis l'ouvrage de nos mains!