

Reclaiming Christmas

Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?

The day after Christmas many people vow that “next Christmas is going to be different.” But unless congregations make plans right now to help members focus on the true meaning of the season, they will probably travel down the same road to disappointment, exhaustion, and overspent budgets. Presbytery has **many** materials that can help your church and your families “reclaim Christmas.” Go to web site (www.presbyterywnc.org), or contact Ginnie Stevens for help (828-438-4217; vestevens2@aol.com).

What about gifts? A while back someone came up with three gift-giving guidelines that seem pretty good. Again there are materials available through Presbytery that can help you flesh out each of these.

- 1. GIVE YOURSELF:** Might this not be the most precious and difficult gift to give to someone you love? Your presence instead of presents? Time instead of trinkets?
- 2. BUY WITH CONSCIENCE:** There are some wonderful gifts that you can buy, knowing that those who produced them are being treated with dignity.
- 3. GIVE TO THOSE HE CAME TO SERVE:** Although Jesus came for us all, His life and teachings reflect a special concern for those on the margins of society.



Each year a few gifts are offered by Presbytery, gifts that offer hope and help to those in special need. The following three pages describe these gifts for 2004. Note this year we've developed a card for children.

Churches can order a sample set and multiple order cards to display. If a church is having an Advent fair or an emphasis on “giving gifts that give twice,” we can provide multiples of the cards requested. We do ask that, as much as possible, you order the number of cards you think your church will need; we will send more if you run out. Or you can take orders and we'll fill the order. Order cards can be used by individuals as well as congregations. The sample order card below is for reproduction.

Please complete my order for the following Christmas cards -

Please send completed order to:

____ Dr. Barbara Nagy - Malawi (\$20 each)
____ Mr. Joe Dyer - The Sudan, Africa (\$20 each)
____ Western NC Flood Recovery Fund (\$20 each)

Name _____
Address _____
Address _____

Guatemala Health Ministries:

____ Improved Sanitation (\$10 each)
____ Family Gardens Program (\$25 each)
____ Children's Nutrition/Health Program (\$20 each)
____ Health Promoter Training (\$15 each)
____ Guatemala Scholarship Fund (\$20 each)

Children's Gift Option:

____ Children's Cards (# of cards should equal # of stickers)
____ 2 x 4 sticker (\$3 each)
____ # of nails sticker (\$1 each)
____ Mosquito net sticker (\$2 each)
____ Satellite phone sticker (>\$.50 each)
____ Children's health sticker (>\$.50 each)

In the event of questions regarding your order, please provide a contact number _____.

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____. Remit order card to:

Sheila Young
PWNC
114 Silver Creek Rd
Morganton, NC 28655

