

Stocking Stuffers

\$1 plants a tree through Plant with Purpose

\$1 provides 1 child with 1 year of discipleship training through India Gospel League

\$2 provides a can of corn seed in Haiti

\$2 to ship a pair of shoes to Africa through Soles of Jesus

\$4 provides 3 students with school supplies in Haiti

\$5 provides a Bible through India Gospel League

\$5 provides a Bible through Yokefellow Prison Ministry

\$8 to feed a child for a week through GPALS

\$11 will provide 250 fish through Church World Service



Gifts of Hope Christmas, 2021



Henry Siddons Mowbray, "The Magi" 1915

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the king will answer them, 'I tell you the truth, just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me.'

Matthew 25:34-40



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How Does This Work?

C.S. Lewis once asked “Can it really be my duty to buy and receive masses of junk every winter?” Some may find his question harsh, but we all lament that Christmas has morphed into an ungodly materialist celebration rather than one centered on Christ’s birth. The sad reality is that the Good News of the angels is now good news about where to find the best bargains.

We want to take Christmas back from the commercialism through our Alternative Christmas Market. We propose to replace one of your gifts to a friend or family member with one of the options contained within. We will supply you with a card explaining the nature of your gift and you will not only have given one gift, but two. Herein is the beauty of the Alternative Christmas Market, your gift also helps to bring hope and love to someone in need here at home, in some other part of our nation and even our world.

Please complete an order form either on the Grove Park website or pick up and return a form at Sunday worship to choose your gifts. Once your order form has been submitted, you can either pick up your cards or we will mail them to you, if requested. It should also be noted that your purchases are considered tax-deductible.

So, how about it? Are you tired of the message of Christmas being replaced with a lesson on materialism? Come join us then at the Alternative Christmas Market.

Plant with Purpose

Plant with Purpose was created in 1984 to bring a holistic approach to the fight against poverty in the Third World. They believe that restoring relationships between people, God and the environment is key to resolving many of the world’s social, economic and environmental problems. They believe that God has called us to be agents of encouragement and empowerment, enabling the poor to both feed their families and restore their degraded lands thereby being good stewards of God’s creation.

Gift Option:

\$1 to buy a tree. Trees are life. They bring productivity to the land so that poor, rural farmers can provide food for their children and income for their families. Trees not only provide a source of food, but also stabilize the soil to prevent massive erosion due to deforestation.



A Note About Our Projects

Each of our projects has been evaluated to determine whether the sponsoring organizations align with the beliefs and values of Grove Park Baptist Church.

While we encourage everyone to participate in the Alternative Christmas Market by making a purchase, please know that you can help these causes in other ways. Our catalogue also serves as a prayer guide to enable you to pray for them and their work for the Kingdom throughout the year. Prayer support is just as vital to the success of these efforts as monetary support.

Thank you again for your support.

Holy Palace Christian Hospital

Holy Palace is a rural, 43-bed hospital serving the Darjeeling district in northern India. The entirely indigenous staff provides compassionate physical and spiritual care to people regardless of caste, creed, or color—all still issues in India. Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic placed tremendous strain on staff and equipment, but their efforts at the hospital and through mobile medical clinics saved many lives. They now offer free COVID-19 vaccines and are seeking to expand both medical and spiritual outreach to their community.

Gift Options:

Blanket: A warm blanket is both a comfort and a necessity for patients. **\$25** will supply a soft and sturdy hospital blanket that will be used for several years.

Operating Room Renovation: A clean operating theater allows Holy Palace surgeons to perform safe, lifesaving procedures that are otherwise unavailable, especially to poor patients. Every **\$15** gift toward renovations gets that much closer to the goal of a modernized facility.

Hospital Generators: Electricity is often unreliable in rural areas of India. At a hospital, a power outage can range from a simpler nuisance to a potentially fatal incident. Holy Palace is looking to safeguard patients by installing 40 kW generators. For every **\$10**, you can fund over 50W of generator capacity; **\$20** will provide more than 110W.



Dancing With The Spirit

Dancing with the Spirit connects Alaskan youth and elders through school music programs and camps—promoting spiritual, physical, and mental wellness with the joy, love, and hope of music. The Rev. Dr. Trimble Gilbert from Arctic Village says, “In the old days we fought tribal wars with arrowheads. It’s a different war now—against drugs and alcohol. I believe we can win with music!” Our mostly Native staff travels to Alaskan villages with plane loads of guitars, fiddles, and ukuleles. We teach the village favorite songs: bluegrass, country, rock n’ roll and gospel with a unique color-coded method of teaching so by the end of week, students can perform songs and host a fiddle dance for the community.



Gift Option: A gift in any amount helps bring music, joy, happiness, hope, and healing to remote Alaskan Native villages.

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Grove Park Alliance for Learning & Service (GPALS)

It is hard to imagine, but there are children in our neighborhood who instead of worrying about what toy to play with or how to work on their batting stance must fret about where their next meal may come from. Indeed, 1 out of 5 children suffer from hunger in our nation. Studies repeatedly have shown that food insecure children are more likely to have lower academic success, score lower on standardized tests, be the source of classroom behavior issues, and suffer from greater instances of being ill. It is not hard then to draw links between how food insecurity affects the growth and stability of all children in the classroom.



Grove Park Baptist Church is at the forefront of the battle to end childhood hunger at Grove Park Elementary School through our GPALS program. We currently provide approximately 16 children enough food each weekend for them and their families. By doing so, we fulfill the example of Jesus to feed the hungry and care for children.

Gift Option: \$8 provides a child with a weekend's worth of food from the Grove Park GPALS program.



Allied Churches

Allied Churches has served the underprivileged of Alamance County since 1982. It is the largest shelter in our county. While our county does not have a housing shortage, there is currently a lack of affordable housing. Most recent reports identify over 500 children as homeless in the Alamance-Burlington School System. Allied Churches provides shelter for entire families as they seek to help them to end the poverty cycle.

Gift Option: \$20 provides bedding for a bed at the Allied Churches shelter.



Soles For Jesus

Soles for Jesus exists to provide new and gently used shoes to the people of Africa who desperately need them. Many of us are unaware that millions of people across our globe live barefoot. Diseases often spread through the open sores on their feet because of the unsanitary conditions of roads and paths. A pair of new or gently used shoes is a simple cure to prevent many of these diseases. With every pair of shoes, SFJ sends Bibles and Gospel booklets in their language. Sharing shoes along with the Gospel opens doors to remote villages for further discipleship.



Gift Options: \$2 will reach one person with a pair of shoes.

\$50 helps us send one large box of shoes and the Gospel booklets printed in their language.

India Gospel League

IGL is an indigenous, Bible-centered organization born and operating in the heart of South Asia. IGL always leads with the gospel as we focus on reaching millions across South Asia in rural villages that still need the hope of the Gospel and have yet to hear about Jesus! IGL has planted churches in more than 100,000 villages in the past 25 years, and from the people who have been impacted, hope is now shining out to a world darkened by desperate poverty and spiritual darkness. The local churches planted in these villages must become a lifeline of transformation to their communities. They must be vibrant, healthy and unable to teach, train, lead, and be a channel of practical resources for the people. Pastors/Church planters must also become self-sustainable—able to supplement their income beyond support from those in their church. Every believer must be equipped—well-nourished so they can teach, lead and nourish others to do the same.

Gift Options: For only \$1 you can provide 1 child with 1 year of discipleship training through our IGL Children's Gospel Club!

For \$5 you can equip a new believer with a Bible with study guide and notes in his or her own language!

For \$55 you can sponsor a regional leadership training conference for men, women, youth and children's leaders in India!



Transworld Radio

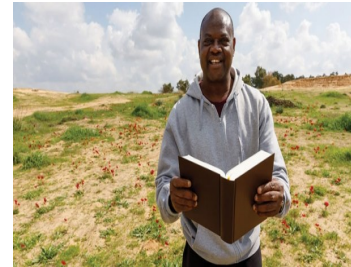
Transworld Radio exists to assist the Church in fulfilling the command of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all peoples by using and making available mass media by proclaiming the Gospel of salvation to as many people as possible and instructing believers in biblical doctrine and daily Christ-like living. TWR began in 1954 from a radio station in Morocco and now reaches into 190 countries spreading the good news of Jesus in over 300 heart languages.



Gift Option: Your gift of any amount will help Transworld Radio maintain and create media that spreads the Gospel into remote areas around the globe by enabling churches and missionaries to reach lost people groups by telling the story of what God is doing around the world.

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Wycliffe Bible Translators was founded in 1942 with the goal of providing the Cakchiquel people of Guatemala with the Scriptures in their own heart language. Since that time, Wycliffe has partnered to translate the Scriptures in over 700 languages. Currently, 350 million people in the world do not have God's Word available to them in their own heart language.



Gift Option: "The Gospel has finally come to a remote group of people in the Brazilian rainforest from the Tupi language family. These new believers have no Scripture in their language. A gift of \$25 translates the books of Luke, Acts, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy and Titus so they can grow in their faith."

Gift Option: People from the GENAAT Cluster in Nigeria, which includes five languages, are eager for more Scripture! 'People are beginning to preach in their churches and pray at home in their own languages' an adviser said. "This hadn't been happening before the translation work started.' A gift of \$25 helps translate the books of 1-2 Timothy and Titus for these communities.



Meals On Wheels

Alamance County Meals on Wheels has served the elderly of Alamance County for over 45 years. Currently, Alamance County Meals on Wheels serves over 300 people each day located on over 24 routes. Grove Park currently services 12 individuals on our route. For some of these recipients, Meals on Wheels is their only contact in the course of a day.



Gift Option: \$20 provides a birthday bag for a Meals on Wheels recipient.

Diaper Ministry

It is difficult to believe that there are North Carolinians who are struggling every day to provide their child with a fresh diaper. Yet, statistics show that 1 out of every 3 North Carolinians will suffer diaper need at some point in their child's life. This year especially there is an added need due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, a large number of those in need are also protecting our freedom in our nation's Armed Forces. Public assistance does not provide for diapers and one upset stomach can destroy a family's diaper budget and force them to make difficult decisions. Truly, this is a ministry to the least of these. Grove Park is pleased to join sister churches in Alamance County who are stepping in to meet this urgent need. Diapers are provided to those in need through Allied Churches, Family Abuse Services, the Salvation Army, the Alamance County Health Department's Baby Closet, and several others.



Gift Option: A gift of \$20 to purchase a box of diapers and/or baby wipes.



Baptists on Mission Disaster Relief

Hurricane Florence is but a distant memory, but the destructive scars she inflicted remain unhealed for many. The residents of eastern North Carolina are still very much in the recovery process and NC Baptists on Mission are there to aid in the rebuilding effort. They now operate four rebuild and recovery centers in eastern NC. So far, over 5800 recovery jobs have been completed, yet many more remain.



Gift Option: A gift in any amount to aid in the costs or rebuilding homes and lives in eastern North Carolina.

Baptist Children's Home

The Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina has helped North Carolina families in trouble for over 125 years. BCH sponsors 18 residential facilities across North Carolina to assist in healing broken families. Recently, BCH began an adoption ministry to help children find permanent homes.



Gift Options: \$20 to provide a gift card for groceries.
\$25 to sponsor a bed at BCH for one month.



In response to the call and example of Christ, Yokefellow Prison Ministry of N.C., Inc. motivates and encourages prisoners, yoked in personal relationships with community volunteers, to examine their lives; experience the forgiveness, healing and power of God's love; and return from incarceration with a covenant commitment to, and new disciplines for, personal responsibility and contribution to family and community. In-person

volunteer services have been halted until further notice due to COVID-19. They are in the process of initiating new programs for aftercare with "returning citizens."

Gift Option: \$5 for the purchase of paperback editions of the Good News Bible through the American Bible Society.

Riggsbee Medical Mission

In countries with limited resources and scattered rural populations, making sure people get the care they need can be especially challenging. The Riggsbee Family lives in Nepal, where Josh and Sarah work to bring hope and healing through medicine. One of the difficulties for healthcare workers based in larger cities is providing follow-up visits to patients living in remote or hard to reach villages. Community re-integration following a medical procedure can improve patient outcomes and prevent future problems. Services like home modifications for wheelchair access, vocational training, and income-generation skills are not available due to a lack of funds.



Gift Option: Help the Riggsbees and Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara, Nepal, raise funds for the home assessment and follow-up visits. A donation of any amount will go toward travel to patient homes, as well as rehab improvements for patients with new or additional needs.

Honduras

Honduras has been ravaged by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in the last month. Two of the strongest hurricanes ever to hit anywhere in November has left thousands homeless and caused heartache from a nation that was already struggling thanks violence associated with the drug trade. Truly, Honduras is a nation that desperately needs to experience hope found in Jesus Christ.

Very often, children are born without necessary supplies to insure a healthy start to life. A baby care package would provide basic supplies such as wipes, diapers, and onesies to provide hope to young families and a solid start to life for these children.

Gift Option: \$25 for baby care packages.

Covid has already impacted so many lives. A lot of people sell food on the street. Because of the pandemic, they have not been able to leave their houses and make any money.

Gift Option: \$25 will provide one "balanced Honduran meal" for 25 children per week.



Church World Service (continued)

Books: Books allow us to explore times, cultures, and worlds that for various reasons are closed to us. Literacy is particularly crucial to a child's development and future success. Children in rural and impoverished schools are often left at a disadvantage when it comes to being provided sufficient reading material.

Gift Option: \$10 will provide 5 students in Vietnam books to allow them to explore new ideas and amazing places.



Fish: Teaching someone how to fish is of little benefit if the person is unable to access fish. Accordingly, supplying someone access to 250 or 500 fish changes everything. The ability to catch healthy fish not only improves a family's diet, but allows them to sell the excess, earning income that improves their overall station in life.

Gift Option: \$11 will provide 250 baby fish, \$22 will provide 500 baby fish to stock a families' pond and provide a long-lasting solution to hunger.



Water Filters: The difference between having water and having clean water is dramatic. Dirty water can contain deadly diseases and parasites that put families in rural Cambodia at risk with every sip.

Gift Option: \$25 provides a water filter to equip one household with a daily supply of fresh, clean water for drinking, washing, and cooking.



Hope Boxes

Ten years ago, Hope for Appalachia began taking small plastic shoe boxes, now called Hope Boxes, filled with gifts to use to share the Gospel with Appalachian school children. Approximately 1,000 children in eastern Kentucky heard of the enduring hope of Jesus Christ that year. Each subsequent year



has resulted in new schools being added to the outreach which now covers a dozen counties in Kentucky and West Virginia. If COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, Easter 2022 promises to be the largest outreach yet with over 25,000 students reached with the Gospel.

Gift Option: \$20 to purchase one Hope Box for a student in Appalachia this Easter.

Welcome Houses

Refugees are continuing to arrive in our nation following the recent conclusion of the Afghan War. There is an ecumenical response working to offer hospitality to our Allies into the safety of our country by creating Welcome Houses to house them initially and then setting them up in their own home soon thereafter. These groups are currently working to establish one in Alamance County. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC works in the Triangle area and Lutheran World Relief works in the Triad. There is currently a joint effort to establish a Welcome House here in Alamance County. These refugees were invaluable in our nation's struggle against terrorist tyranny and had to leave their homes in order to save their lives because of their service. By providing hospitality, we not only offer provision to those without anything, but also open the door to sharing the living hope of the Gospel.



Gift Option: A gift in any amount to provide gift cards to purchase home supplies that will enable these families to get set up in their new homes.



Church Plants

Graffiti Baltimore

Graffiti Church in East Baltimore, MD is on the frontlines of the fight against evil and injustice in our world. They are located in one of the most impoverished areas of Baltimore with some of the highest rates of homelessness, drug abuse, and violence in the city. There are estimated to be over 2200 homeless people on Baltimore's streets on any given night. The city has experienced 301 murders and 619 non-fatal shootings this year at the time of printing. Pastor Charlie Brown is the pastor of Graffiti Church. They are a ray of hope in a city that only knows hopelessness and despair.

Gift Options: A gift card of any amount to purchase food used at the end of the month bus stop ministry. The end of the month is a time when most families' food resources have been exhausted and the need is most great. The average cost for this ministry is \$500 a month.

\$20 to purchase one male and one female winter survival hospitality bag for the homeless. Each bag contains a pair of socks, toboggan, gloves, and toiletry items.



Fire and Light Community Church

Fire and Light Community Church continues to reach out to the residents of NW Baltimore and Reisterstown with the light of the Gospel. One of the largest ministries is to the youth and children of their community. Any hope of change in Baltimore's culture will begin with reaching the next generation for Christ.

Gift Option: A gift in any amount to help move someone from homelessness to a home. A concentration is placed on stabilizing a homeless person with adequate hygiene items and clothing to assist in finding them employment.



Church World Service

Church World Service has provided a global ecumenical approach to feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, comforting the aged, and sheltering the homeless for 75 years. They seek to minister not only to immediate short-term needs, but also to systemic issues by seeking to break the cycles that perpetrate those issues.

Emergency Rations for Child: A series of natural disasters in Kenya's West Pokot region has resulted in massive food shortages due to the loss of farms, livestock, and homes. Many families are struggling with where to find food for their children.

Gift Option: \$9 will ensure that a child receives a month's worth of emergency food rations.

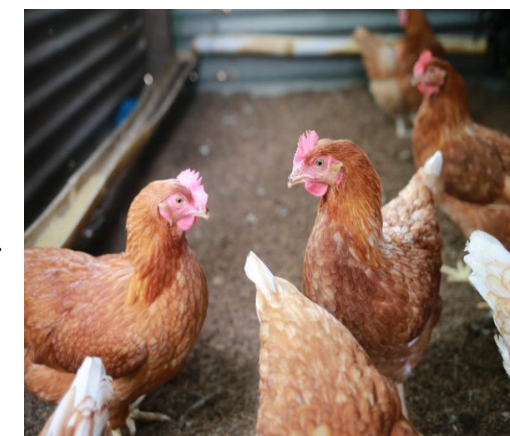
Corn Seed: Farming is a difficult business as the farmer's survival often rests on natural phenomena beyond their control. One weather event can destroy the most promising of crops. Haiti is particularly susceptible to hurricanes aside from the many other issues facing that troubled country.



Gift Option: \$10 will purchase 5 cans of corn seed to enable a farmer to recover from a lost harvest or expand their livelihoods with additional crops.

Chickens: Protein is an important part of a child's development, but families in rural Tanzania don't always have access to it. That's where chickens come in. Chickens provide a constant supply of eggs (protein), and those eggs can also be sold to pay for healthy vegetables.

Gift Option: \$15 will give the gift of chickens to promote a well-balanced diet.



School Supplies: Haitian school children desperately need normal. Hurricanes, earthquakes, rampant violence, political upheaval, and rampant poverty have resulted in school closures and left children's future teetering.

Gift Option: \$16 equips 12 students with pens, pencils, and notebooks so they can study both inside and outside of the classroom and work for a more calm and certain future.

