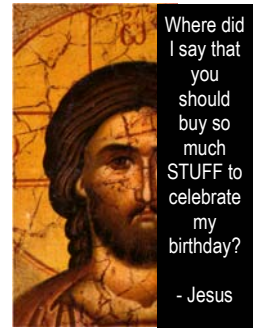


Make this Christmas more
meaningful by giving...



GOSPEL GIFTS



WHAT ARE GOSPEL GIFTS?

Anyone can give **Gospel Gifts**. They are only limited by our imaginations, and show both thoughtfulness towards the recipient and the world around us. By giving **Gospel Gifts**, we de-commercialize Christmas and re-design a lifestyle that is richer in meaning, smaller in impact upon the earth, and greater in giving to people less-privileged. Four types of **Gospel Gifts** could include:

- **Donating** to a charity or justice organization in honor of your loved one
- **Supporting** a local, fair trade, or environmentally-friendly business with your gift
 - Giving an **alternative gift**: something homemade, creative and unique
- Giving a **coupon** for a homemade dinner, a day away, a massage, or a car wash

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

When we work too hard to save money to buy things we don't really need, we buy into a standard of living that that reinforces the gap between the rich and poor, and we ruin the earth.

The U.S. (about 5% of the world's population) consumes over 40% of the world's resources while half the world's population lives on less than two dollars a day.

Our over-consumption has resulted in: weakened labor standards in dozens of countries, an increasingly devastated environment, and a U.S. foreign policy based largely on securing our most valued import— oil. **Christmas is a time when we can shift our priorities — from presents to people.**

HOW CAN I GIVE JUST HOLIDAY GIFTS?

Ideas listed on the CAN Gift Sheet include: 1) Goods whose producers were paid a living wage (fair trade/non-sweatshop businesses), 2) Businesses that are environmentally responsible (earth friendly, organic, or natural materials, packaging, etc.), 3) Sources for like-new or used gifts, and 4) Local, independent businesses (like the ones that belong to BUILD St. Louis) which ensures that 45% of each dollar spent returns back into the St. Louis community.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

- Catholic Action Network for Social Justice 721.2977 or www.catholicactionnetwork.org
 - Buy Nothing Day: www.buynothingday.org
 - Alternatives for Simple Living: www.simpleliving.org 1-800/821-6153
 - New American Dream: <http://www.newdream.org/holiday/index.php>

A Homemade Dinner

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

We'll be enjoying one of your favorites, _____

Three Massages

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

To: _____

From: _____

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**



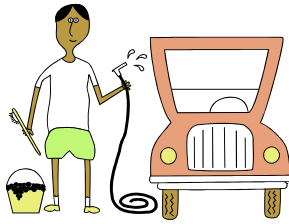
**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

To: _____

From: _____

One Full Car Wash

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

To: _____ From: _____

Three Extra Chores

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

To: _____ From: _____