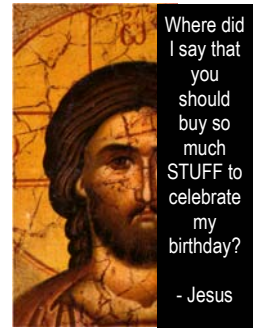


Make this Christmas more  
meaningful by giving...



# 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](http://www.catholicactionnetwork.org)
  - Buy Nothing Day: [www.buynothingday.org](http://www.buynothingday.org)
  - Alternatives for Simple Living: [www.simpleliving.org](http://www.simpleliving.org) 1-800/821-6153
  - New American Dream: <http://www.newdream.org/holiday/index.php>

# GOSPEL GIFTS:

# ALTERNATIVE GIFT IDEAS



Create coupons for a massage, spring cleaning, child-minding, manicure, etc.

Donate to a charity or justice organization in the recipient's name.

Create a menu of various culinary delights (e.g., Tantalizing Thai, Mexican Fiesta, etc.) and have the gift recipient choose one of the options.

Collect meaningful photos for the gift recipient, make color photocopies and create a collage.

Write and illustrate a book for the young people in your life.

Knit a stocking, hat, socks, etc.

Do something exciting and challenging together (e.g., long walk, bike ride, hike, art course).

Compile a list of memories and arrange them in a creative fashion.

Videotape and interview your elderly parents about childhood memories, how they met, etc., and give to siblings or children.

Paint an empty wine bottle with non-toxic paint and fill with olive oil. Top with an oil pour spout that can be found at a gourmet cooking shop.

Bake your favorite holiday treat and pack in a recycled tin.

Fill a basket with home-made goodies.

Frame a piece of your artwork.

Make a mixed tape or CD and choose songs that make you think of that person. Under each title, explain why you chose that song.

Give away a valued possession.

Fill an old trunk or suitcase with fun clothing, hats and gaudy jewelry for your children to play dress-up.

Wrap gifts in newspaper, maps, scarves or interesting clothing.

Make a calendar with pictures of family members and/or scenery.

For the elderly people in your life, research newspaper and magazine articles from their youth and present in a creative fashion.

Collect quotes that make you think of someone.

Make an herb pillow filled with lavender, rose, etc.

If you are skilled in a particular area, offer a lesson or class.

Purchase gifts at a fair-trade shop, garage sale or thrift shop.

Buy a used book and in the inside cover explain why you chose the book for that person.

# JUST HOLIDAY GIVING: 2006 GIFT SHEET

## CLOTHING

### Second Hand:

#### **St. Vincent de Paul:**

4127 Forest Park

**Salvation Army:** 3949 Forest Park

**Goodwill:** 4140 Forest Park

**Bag-O-Rama:** 6388 Delmar | Buy, sell, trade trendy clothes

**Scholarshop:** 8211 Clayton Rd and 7930 Big Bend | Upscale business attire

**Kangaroo Kids:** 10090 Manchester Children's resale and maternity support center

### Other:

+**Skif International:** 773-4401

2008 Marconi | Homemade sweaters to Japanese-style cardigans

+**The Time Boutique:** 644-2055

7298 Manchester | Truckloads of indie-designed ready-to-wears

\***Nosweatapparel.com:** 100%

Union, non-sweatshop clothing

**Patagonia.com:** Environmentally-friendly outdoor gear



## TECHNOLOGY

**Refurbdepot.com:** refurbished

(used) computers, audio equipment, cameras, tvs, dvd and cd players, power tools

\***Timbuk2.com:** ipod, cell phone cases, bike and laptop bags

**Secondspin.com:** large seller of used CDs, DVDs and games

+**Euclid Records:** 961-8978

601 E. Lockwood

+**Vintage Vinyl:** 721-4096

6610 Delmar



## FOR KIDS

**Laptoplunches.com:** Sustainably-produced lunch containers that promote nutritious, waste-free lunches

**Kidbean.com:** Vegan products for moms and kids

**Sumboshine.com:** Organic and natural toys



**Islandtreasuretoys.com:** Natural and Waldorf inspired toys



## BOOKS

### Online Used:

Abebooks.com, powells.com

### Local:

+**The Book House:** 968-4491  
9719 Manchester Rd

+**Left Bank Books:** 367-6731  
399 N. Euclid

+**Subterranean Books:** 862-6100  
6275 Delmar

## GIFTS, ACCESSORIES, HOME

**Cleanairgardening.com:** Earth-friendly lawn & garden supplies

**Theorganicwinecompany.com:**

All-organic online wine shop

+**Phoenix Rising:** 862-0609

6331 Delmar | Eclectic gifts

+**Mavrik Jewelry & Gifts:** 862-1828  
7352 Forsyth Blvd

+**Home Eco:** 351-2000 | 4611 Macklind Ave | Environmentally friendly products for home and garden

+**Good Works:** 726-2233 | 6323

Delmar | Furniture and accessories

+**Cornucopia:** 822-2440 | 107 N. Kirkwood Rd. in Kirkwood | Kitchen and home accessories

## ENTERTAINMENT & FOOD

+**MoKaBe's Coffee House:**

865- 2009 | 3606 Arsenal

+\***Kaldi's Coffee House & Market**

**Bakery:** 727-9955 | 700

DeMun and

120 S. Kirkwood Rd

+\***Black Bear Bakery:**

771-2236 2639 Cherokee St.

+**Schlafly Beer:** 241-2337 | 2100

Locust & 7260 Southwest Ave

+**The Wine Merchant:** 863-6282

20 S. Hanley Rd and 12669 Olive

+**33 Wine Shop & Tasting Bar:**

231-9463 | 1913 Park Ave

+\***Hartford Coffee Company:**

771- 5282 | 3974 Hartford Ave



+**Chase Park Plaza Cinemas & Galleria 6 Cinemas:** 367-0101 | 212 N. Kingshighway and in the Galleria

+**Bailey's Chocolate Bar:** 241-8100  
1915 Park

+**Mangia Italiano:** 664-8585  
3145 S. Grand

## ALTERNATIVE GIFTS

**Heifer International:** Gifts of livestock to families made in honor of your loved one. **800-422-0474 or heifer.org**

**Alternative Gifts Intl:** Designated gifts sent to the established international projects or relief agencies. A card is sent to the recipient announcing the gift and describing the project. **800-842-2243 or altgifts.org**

## BEST BETS

+\***Plowsharing Crafts:** All fair trade, not-for-profit store. Musical instruments, nativity scenes, clothes, cookbooks, chili, soup and bread mixes, jewelry, and more | 863-3723 | 6271 Delmar

+\***MacroSun Intl:** Fair Trade jewelry, distinctive apparel, home décor, artifacts, Buddhist and Hindu arts, incense, and textiles | 421-6400 | 1310 Washington Ave



\***Global Exchange Fair Trade Store:** <http://store.gxonlinestore.org>

**Eomall.com:** Green marketplace with huge list of online products

+ Denotes membership in BUILD St. Louis, network of local, independently-owned businesses. When you support local independents, about 45% of each dollar spent returns back into the St. Louis community.

\* Denotes service of Fair Trade, or non-sweatshop product