



What is Partners' Blog???? It is a journal and/or commentary on various topics, experiences or circumstances written by leaders and members of Partners in Christ Ministries. It may include quotes, scriptures and prayers as well. We will be updating frequently so you'll want to check it out often.

With Christmas approaching, we invite you to join our team in watching for and anticipating more ways we can be a blessing to people around us. We have all seen activity during this season that appears to be motivated by a desire to promote an organization or to get something from people however our goals need to be Christ focused, helping others and bringing glory to God.

Many of us have experienced how people are friendlier during the holidays, making this time of year a greater opportunity to meet new people and build relationships. It also gives us opportunities to be in places within the community that will open relational doors for God to use us in the coming year. I remember when a neighbor of ours reached out in relationship and brought us some Christmas cookies. It was quite amazing how it affected our children in regards to how they felt about the people next door and how our whole family reciprocated and reached out to them in conversation and relationship. For ourselves, every year we attempt to keep our ears open to hear of those in real need. Many times we have had people over for a meal or gave them food or gifts. The openness is awesome and it impacted our family as well.

Below are just a few simple inexpensive ideas of something you too could plan this year that will connect you face to face with people as God wants to work through us and give us ways to impact people within our community.

1. Take small gifts to a few homes in your area or on your block to say 'Merry Christmas'. The gifts need to be nice but do not have to cost much at all. It would be fun to join with a friend to prepare a few gifts and then take them to neighbors together, in each of your neighborhoods....or your Bible study group could plan as well.

Examples:

- Bake or even buy some Christmas cookies or goodies. Dollar stores has so many ways you could wrap them up...Christmas plates, boxes, gift bags all at very little cost. You can put just a few cookies in each and then go to a home to wish them a Merry Christmas. You could attach a gift tag on the gifts with your first name or family name to give them a context when they see you again. If you feel to you could even leave an email address or other contact info.

Here's a note from Angie, from our team, explaining what she is planning. Sounds like a lot of fun and I know it will be effective too.

*Note from Angie: Soooo excited about my Christmas adventure to reach out to my community. To start with I'm gathering ladies from my Wed. night prayer group, as well as some others, to meet at my home for a potluck supper. We are then going out caroling and handing out the little gifts, maybe chocolates wrapped in cellophane with a Christmas ribbon.. Might make my own, get the chocolate, melt it, pour it into moulds. DONE. I think most people are very blessed by Christmas Carolers coming to their door. I'm very excited and feel this will open hearts and doors by letting the light of Jesus shine through me and to remind people what the Christmas season is really all about.*

Other ideas:

- give out Christmas cards
- Christmas candy wrapped in cellophane or a tiny gift bag etc. again there are a lot of ideas at the dollar stores or even craft stores that are affordable.
- small Christmas ornaments - these you can even make yourself
- Christmas candle. Some stores sell the little fabric gift bags too that you can use to present the candle.



**Matthew 10:8 – “Freely you have received, freely give”**