

6 IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS MISSION 2009

This greatest of all gifts is not available in stores, and this month's poster encourages us, in the midst our gift-purchasing, to consider God's gift to us. The gift given at great cost to God, provided at no charge to us. Below are six ideas to help you mission around this month's poster.

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1. The 'Non-Christmas Catalogue'

Create a catalogue of items that aren't available in stores this Christmas. The catalogue could include items such as 'peace and good will to all men', 'grace', 'forgiveness', 'inexpressible joy' – and many more!

2. 'Worthless Christmas' video

Show the 'Worthless Christmas' mini-movie in church services in the lead up to Christmas. If you can get past the American accent, this video is a good twist on the familiar Mastercard 'priceless' commercials.

- Link to download: <http://bit.ly/6PNXbN>
- More videos: <http://bit.ly/4RBMuk>

3. Nativity garage sale

Draw a connection from the birth to the resurrection. Create a garage sale advertisement (poster) that lists items for sale after the birth of Jesus

(e.g. a manger, a donkey, swaddling cloths, etc). Put the posters up on noticeboards and other prominent places around your community.

4. 'Useless' survey

Survey people in your community (door knock, newsletter), inviting them to share the most useless gift they've ever received. Encourage them to come to a Christmas church service to hear about the most precious and useful gift ever given.

5. Connect with Council

Write a letter to the Councillors at your local council. In this letter you can invite the Mayor and other Councillors to attend your Christmas church services (and any other activities your church is hosting). You could mention the poster (e.g. "you might have seen this poster



outside our church...") and in a sentence or two explain why the best gift this Christmas isn't available in stores. This is also a great opportunity to thank the Councillors for their service of your local community, and affirm your mutual goals of seeking the well-being of the people in your community.

6. Promote useful gifts

Encourage your church members to give gifts that are expressions of love, mercy and justice. For example, TEAR's 'Useful Gift Catalogue', Anglicare's 'The Gift that Gives', Samaritan Purse's 'Operation Christmas Child' and International Justice Mission's 'Gift of Freedom'.

- Link to resources: <http://bit.ly/8rQDiC>