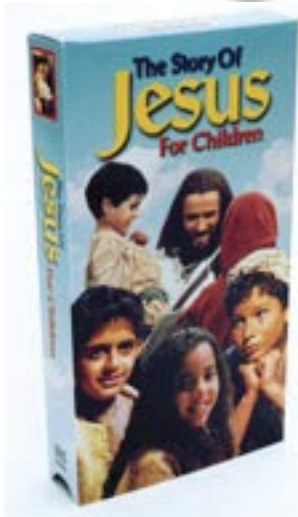
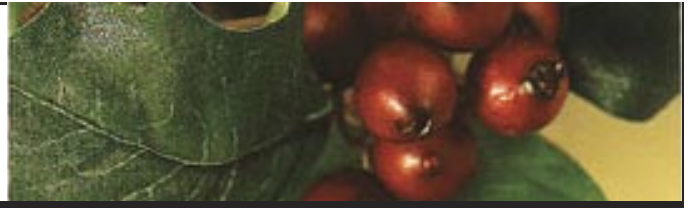


# Christmas Outreach

Dec 2005's issue of WorldWide Challenge, a publication of Campus Crusade for Christ. Article by Becky Hill.



**D**espite the rise of political correctness, i.e. celebrating “Winter break” instead of “Christmas break,” we who know the significance of Christ and his coming can have a great impact on those around us this holiday season. Here are some ideas that help keep our focus on the reasons for the holidays and help us take advantage of our culture’s openness this time of year. Consider adopting one or two of these outreach ideas this season. May we keep the reasons for our joy clear to all!

- 1. Do something nice for a neighbor.** Shovel someone’s sidewalk or offer to help put up Christmas lights. It’s not just about giving gifts, it’s about giving of ourselves.
- 2. Be a happy line stander.** You’re almost guaranteed to be standing in line during December. Meet the people in front of you. Talk about the season of hope instead of complaining about the crowd.
- 3. Celebrate Hanukkah!** “Without Hanukkah, there wouldn’t be Christmas,” says one Campus Crusade staffer. She uses resources from Chosen People Ministries, a Christian outreach to Jewish people. Find out the history of Hanukkah and talk with your Jewish friends about it.
- 4. Celebrate Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th.** An often-forgotten holiday is Pearl Harbor Day, remembering the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, which led to the United States’ involvement in World War II. Some people may respond to this holiday with more emotion than to Christmas. But do your patriotic friends know the story of Mitsuo Fuchida, the lead Japanese bomber into Pearl Harbor, who later in life became a Christian and spent time traveling and teaching about peace and forgiveness? His story could lead to some interesting conversations.
- 5. Send Christmas Cards.** Include a gospel tract in the card if the card has no gospel message. As you send cards, pray for the people as you sign the cards. Pray also for the people you get cards from.
- 6. Give out Jesus videos or DVDs.** Based on the gospel of Luke, the JESUS film tells the story of Christ from His birth to death and resurrection. Give it out in a fruit basket, with cookies and hot cocoa mix, or by itself.
- 7. Invite everyone to church with you.** People are most open to attending church during Christmas and Easter, so invite everyone you know. Engage them in conversation afterward. Ask questions like: “Did your family have any religious traditions during the holidays?”, “Where do you see yourself on your spiritual journey?” and “Would you like to know God personally?”
- 8. Invite the neighborhood children over for a birthday party for Jesus.** Have a cake, play birthday and Christmas games (like Pin the Tail on Mary’s Donkey), tell the story of Jesus’ birth, and talk about His life.
- 9. Volunteer. You never know whom you might meet.** Ring the bell for the Salvation Army, play Santa Claus, or serve in a soup kitchen. Visit prisons, hospitals or nursing homes. Talk about the reason for the season.
- 10. Go caroling and invite neighbors, friends and co-workers to join you.** Talk about the meaning of the songs between houses.



# Christmas Eve Service

Join us in the FEFC sanctuary as we hold a candle light service of celebrating the night our savior was born and focusing on Christmas being spoken here at 4 pm.

*Christmas Card Project*

This year, for the Christmas card project, FEFC is sending gifts to house parents and staff of the ARK orphanage in Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic. The hardworking staff will be sent a giant card. The money collected will also be sent to support that staff. Look for a giant sized white envelope with photos of the Dominican kids in the foyer on Sunday December 4. Mark your giving envelope if you are giving to the Christmas Card Fund. Make your check out to FEFC and place it in the offering plate during the Sunday Service.

## ONE CHRISTMAS PAST

*John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the word was God."*

*John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth." In this edition of First Word, the focus of this Christmas season is "Christmas is Spoken Here". Take a look at how God's living word impacted John Londborg on Christmas, and how the word of God stayed with him long after.*

**T**he Christmas Eve Sunday School program was coming fast and the verses that I was expected to recite were slowly being etched in my memory with the insistent "help" of my mother. The dread of not reciting my part perfectly, or needing to be prompted was making my short vacation from school much less relaxing. I wanted to be playing outside in the snow, and I could hardly wait to open the presents from Aunt Nellie which had been sent weeks earlier. Those presents were waiting under the tree for the Londborg family to open on Christmas morning.

The small village church smelled fresh from the big pine trees on the platform and was packed full of people. The evening service soon began. Children got up on cue and recited their verses and said their parts in the program. One more carol and then it was my turn. Just as I had been coached, the familiar verses came out from memory: "Luke 2:1-8...*And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered..... and she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*" Afterwards I sat down and the dread went away and soon the program was over. People walked back to their homes in the darkness.

Christmastime was wonderful that year as always, and it had all passed by too quickly, but it didn't really end for me. Back in my 2nd grade classroom, the verses would come filtering through my mind again and again, interrupting a math or English lesson, even if for a moment. And I knew that the long-ago event the birth of my Savior, was as real as my simple faith in that same Jesus.



John Londborg