

## A Gift for HIM throughout the Year!

During the last several weeks the lyrics of “The Little Drummer Boy” have been swimming in my head. I’m not sure why! I’m especially drawn to the line which says “I have no gift to bring.” That is a sad reality for many. Some are just happy to have a roof over their heads. Others struggle to have the electric bills paid much less homes decorated with twinkling lights

It can get frustrating when you naively believe that everyone else is celebrating the Christmas season except for you. I remember well a few Christmases many years ago when my family experienced the devastation of unemployment. It wasn’t supposed to be that way -so I thought as a young mother. Looking back I can see how God used those experiences, but I can’t say that it was without my tears.

It is easy to get lost in the retail frenzy when you hear figures stating what the average holiday shopper is spending. Something is missing when you cannot take part in the holiday gift buying and decorating so common in our nation. It is so easy to become depressed and lose sight of the meaning of Christmas and His teachings to give what you have, even if it is just a song of praise.

One verse asks, “Shall I play for you...on my drum? Often times we focus on what we don’t have and can’t bring. We fail to realize that the greatest gift is ourselves. As a child I used to think that the coupon books and cards we made at school for acts of service were cheesy and not real gifts. Today I realize that there is true value in a hug or an offer to do the dishes or run errands

A few years ago I read an article in Guideposts magazine about a wonderful tradition. Instead of bought gifts, the parents have asked their grown children and grandchildren to do deeds in the community throughout the year and to write them down on slips of paper and to put them in a jar as their gift to them. Wow! I can’t think of a better gift. New Year’s 2015 may be the perfect time to begin.

Scripture has quite a few references to giving what we have, even if it is seemingly little. Acts 3:6 NIV Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Luke 21:3-4 NIV 3 “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” What about the 5000 fed from a little boy’s lunch of 5 barley loaves and 2 fish referenced in John 6:1-15?

There are many organizations and individuals who could use your assistance. You may wish to call the Soup Kitchen, Faith in Action Caregivers, the YSS Winter Freeze, or my office. I guarantee someone in our community could use an extra hand and a smile. Sometimes we just need to be reminded that regardless of our circumstances we truly do have something to offer. What gifts can you bring to HIM throughout this New Year?