



EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/DECEMBER 2014

There is Still Time! No Need for Missed Opportunities!

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10


As the year swiftly comes to a close many struggle to decide where they get the best deal on their most coveted gadgets. Others begin filling their schedules with holiday gatherings filled with good food, friends and fun. Still others are looking ahead to next year, making plans and developing strategies to accomplish their goals. Not to be outdone, overachievers are attempting all these things.

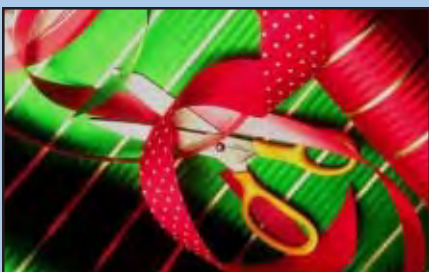


Yet, amidst the holiday hustle we must not forget the soldiers protecting us thousands of miles from home; or others who are sick and shut-in. What about those who feel the sting of loneliness and grief? The absence of loved ones intensifies as they wonder, "Where did the time go? I thought I had more time to show them how much I love them."

Through the character of Jacob Marley's ghost, in the beloved classic tale, A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens, reminds us of the importance of compassion toward mankind.

"Business!" cried the ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The deals of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

In Paul's letter to the church in Galatia believers are admonished to take advantage of every 



TEACHING TIP:

Christmas is an excellent time to combine crafts with giving. Both young and old like receiving handmade gifts.



TEACHING TIP:

Host activities that share how Christians in countries hostile to the gospel still celebrate the birth of Christ.



TEACHING TIP:

Every year thousands of soldiers spend Christmas away from home. Consider sending soldiers a phone card.

opportunity to do good. Furthermore, he clearly states, that our good should be done unto ALL men. Christmas is an excellent time to create and take advantage of opportunities to share God's love with those who are hurting.

New believers unaccustomed to wholesome fun during the holidays would appreciate an invitation to festive holiday gatherings. Don't forget the singles, divorcees, widows and widowers at your church or in your neighborhood who may be feeling unattached amidst the holiday cheer. Making special goodie bags for the homeless, volunteering at The Salvation Army or local soup kitchen, are also tangible ways your willingness to serve can show God's great love.

Showing God's love to others must be at the top of our list of things to do during the holiday season.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Kimberly von Oeyen

ICEA is a volunteer staffed ministry. Each month Equipping U will highlight one of these precious servants of God.

After two years of faithful service, the founding editor of the ICEA Equipping U monthly newsletter, Kimberly von Oeyen, followed the leading of the Holy Spirit toward more involvement with women's ministry. As editor of the newsletter she challenged leaders to grow in their faith and in their craft as teachers of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As she seeks to serve God more passionately, may He bless her with more opportunities!

Remember, you don't have to limit yourself to Christmas time. These services are needed all year long. As you prayerfully consider how you will give or spend your time this holiday season, may you find many opportunities to be about the business of showing love and compassion to people!

FROM THE NEW EDITOR



As I grasp the baton passed to me, I am filled with awe at God. How humbling to be allowed to serve Him as editor for an organization with such a powerful legacy of service. Pray with me as I continue the vision of newsletter founder, Kimberly von Oeyen, "to provide information, instruction and inspiration for those who serve the body of Christ."

Continuing the legacy of serving U,

Christina Dixon

SAVE THE DATE

The 2015 Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference is scheduled for **March 7th**. Save the date and watch for more details in our January issue.

PERMISSIONS

- Art Explosion Image Library - Holiday331, Holiday348, Holiday354
- Dickens, Charles. *A Christmas Carol*. Bethany House Publishers. Ada, MI 1999
- iStockphoto - 4830225-time.jpg

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HOLIDAY EDITION

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