

Top 10 Ways to Minister at Christmas



9 Pump up your Christmas ministry projects with these ideas. There's one main theme throughout all 10 ideas. Can you guess what it is? **Giving!**

10. Start an Angel Tree ministry.

Your church can sponsor low-income children from a local school or day care. Or you may want to combine efforts with another church to be able to bless even more children with much-needed clothing and other gifts.



8 9. Take casseroles or other reheatable meals to the elderly, needy, or people who have suffered a recent loss such as the death of a relative or financial crisis.

Pick the group you want to minister to and go for it. The idea is to provide an easy-to-assemble Christmas dinner. Be sure to note any special dietary needs of recipients when planning the meals.



7 8. Lead your Sunday School class in making a project of purchasing warm blankets, sweaters, gloves, and socks.

Then schedule a day to pass them out to the homeless at a local shelter or mission, along with a cup of hot coffee, chocolate, and sandwiches. This will share the love of Christ in a tangible way.



6 7. Adopt a family in your neighborhood and provide Christmas gifts.

Find out specifics about the family so that you can address not just their needs but touch their hearts with your gifts. Prepare a holiday meal for the family. Make it first class from start to finish, beginning with creative personal invitations that will make the guests feel honored, not intimidated.

6. Go caroling.

Leave gifts at the homes you visit. They should be practical such as gift cards to area restaurants, coupons that may be redeemed for groceries, food baskets, or coupons redeemable for services from church members: oil changes, lawn care, handyman jobs, etc. Be sure to include a Bible and some information about your church. Make your caroling experience a truly special one with *A Classic Christmas Caroling Songbook* and *CD*. For more ideas about planning a safe and special caroling outing, see the *Tips and Tools* on page 36.



5. Cater a meal or special event for people who must work on Christmas Day: policemen, firefighters, nurses, newspaper staff, etc.

You could arrange to have people actually bring in food to the places of work. The group can set up the food area and clean up afterward. And don't forget to sing a few carols while you're there!

4. Adopt college students who may have nowhere to go: foreign students, low-income students who may not be able to return home for the holidays.

Invite families to house students in their homes over the holidays and include them in meals and celebrations. Contact local colleges or even high schools to find students who need a place to stay or would just like to participate in a family's Christmas dinner.

3. Have a multicultural, missions-centered Christmas dinner sponsored by your church.


Invite people in your community to come and enjoy a meal that features Christmas recipes from all over the world. Choose one or two special missions projects your church can adopt and present the need during this event.

2. Honor soldiers and their families.

Work with the families to make and send care packages specific to soldiers' needs. Write special Christmas cards thanking each family for their sacrifice, and contact each family to find out what needs the church can meet. Some ideas include practical services such as car maintenance and handyman tasks to help mothers whose husbands are deployed.

1. Last but not least, contact a local shelter or orphanage to identify and fill a need they are facing.

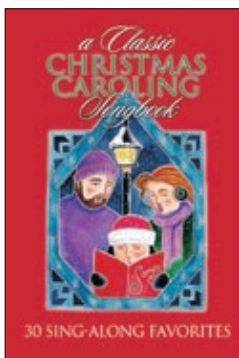
There are always opportunities to support your local food pantry, Boys and Girls club, pregnancy care center, or Salvation Army. And not all needs are financial. Many places simply need people willing to donate an hour or two of their time to read to children or help dole out soup to those who are hungry.

You can also visit www.ag.org to find ministries that would welcome your help with a variety of projects. 

© 2007 by Gospel Publishing House. Permission to duplicate for local church use.



TEACHER'S TOOLBOX



A Classic Christmas Caroling Songbook and CD

Whether you're standing on a snowy porch, gathered around a piano with family, visiting the lonely, or worshipping in a small group, these carols will help you spread the light of Christmas in song. Songbook includes music for 30 classic carols rich in message and timeless appeal such as *Away in a Manger*, *Silent Night!*, *The First Noel*, *Love Came Down at Christmas*, *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, and many more. The CD features split-track recording of all 30 carols, making it ideal for caroling.

Book. Paper. 36 pages. 38LK0580 \$1.95
CD 38LK0587 \$14.95