

December 2011

PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

1. Shop the LWML Store for Christmas gifts – 50¢
2. 10¢ for each opportunity on your list to share a Joy of Christmas Mustard Seed.
3. Always be a witness with a Christian message in your cards – \$1
4. Second Sunday in Advent. Come Lord Jesus, come!
5. Join LWML in prayer at noon for new souls to be won for Christ – 50¢
6. Send encouragement, joy and thanks to a soldier and his/her family – 50¢
7. Don't forget to thank your Sunday school teachers this Christmas – 50¢
8. Make sure practicing a joyful attitude is at the top of your Christmas to-do list – \$1
9. Busy like Martha? There is evangelism in service to others – 50¢
10. Give thanks for the quiet He offers during this busy season – 50¢
11. Third Sunday in Advent. Savior of the Nations, come!
12. Pray at noon with your LWML sisters for an abundance of mites – 50¢
13. Some of your greatest gifts are kind words, thoughtful ways, prayers and generosity for others.
14. Send a special written note to those who serve you – police, fire, mailman – 50¢
15. Add 10¢ to your Mite Box for every cookie recipe you've used so far this year!
16. Add 50¢ for every Christmas party you are invited to.
17. Give 10¢ for every guest who will spend a night in your home during the holidays.
18. Fourth Sunday in Advent. O come, O come, Emmanuel!
19. Remember to pray at noon for all missionaries, including yourself – 25¢
20. Add 10¢ to your Mite Box for every place you will set at the Christmas table.
21. Day of St. Thomas – with him we, too, can cry, "My Lord and my God" – \$1
22. Recall your favorite holiday memory – 50¢
23. Add 10¢ to your Mite Box for every package under your tree.
24. Christmas Eve – 50¢
25. Christmas Day – freewill offering
26. At noon remember St. Stephen, Martyr. Like Christ and Stephen we are blessed as we forgive others – 50¢
27. May we like St. John proclaim, "My dear children, love one another" – 50¢
28. Day of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs – we praise the Lord for peace and safety for our children – 50¢
29. 50¢ if you recycled wrapping paper and ribbons; \$1 if you didn't!
30. Thank your Pastor for the extra time he shared with you during advent and the Christmas season – \$1
31. Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus, praise God for His Son among us! – 50¢



* Please be Together in Prayer
at Noon every Monday with LWML sisters.

www.lwml.org/missions

PLEASE FOLD OR CUT THIS GUIDE ON THE DOTTED LINE,
AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE IN YOUR BIBLES
FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

MISSION GRANT STORY

STORY OF DECEMBER

\$1,825,000

Have you had your fill of canned holiday music, bright colored lights, television ads, holiday movies and decorations spilling everywhere from the retail world? Are you tired of baking even though you have not started? Are you wondering how in the world you will ever be able to pay for the list of gifts that keep popping up in your head? What will you do if you get one more invitation to a party? Are you going to have a good attitude at the Saturday morning Christmas program practices working with all the excitable Sunday school children? Oh, and remember to water all the poinsettias before you leave. And there are the extra choir practices, houseguests are coming, and so it goes again this year!

Now imagine the holiday season without family and friends, without children's programs and decorations, without music and parties, without a packed church. Depending on the location and the prevailing culture, this is typical for many of our missionaries in the field. I recently spoke to a missionary who has returned to the states, and she shared a few thoughts.

"There is absolutely no air of anticipation in many villages, towns and cities; why would there be? They do not grasp the joy of the birth of our Lord come to earth as a newborn. They do not know Him at all. There may be a few decorations, but often they do not make sense. One city in Africa boasts a large Santa Claus that rotates while the 'Yellow Rose of Texas' is broadcast! There are no Christmas hams, turkey stuffing, plates of cookies, tape and wrapping paper littering the table or music filling the square."

Our missionary friend was devastated when their best friends moved away just before the holidays. There would be no one to share the comforting, favorite festivities. The recently acquired string of Christmas lights lay on the couch for two weeks before her husband finally said, "I love what you have done with the decorations!"

We can refocus in this Christmas season! We praise God for the devotion and sacrifice of our missionaries in the field, and we can give Him thanks for their examples of faith and perseverance. The Prince of Peace will meet our need to anticipate His coming without dreading the schedule. In our devotions we will marvel at His birth among us, rather than despair that our worldly preparations are incomplete. When we contemplate the lives of service that take our missionaries far from home, let us look at our sometimes annoying atmosphere with new eyes and a heart thankful in His grace and glad for traditions that do point to the best birthday celebration ever, the birth of Jesus our Savior! As we praise the Babe of Bethlehem, let us ask that our hearts will be made ready and our joy will be complete. Merry Christmas!

