

## A Gift for Jesus

You are in for a blessing. Jesus is going to be present with your family when you open Christmas gifts this year. So, of course, you will want to have a gift for Him too, right? But what to give Him?

I suggest a gift in His name to a cause that is dear to His heart. It is the same cause He spent much time doing: announcing the good news.

Today we have almost 5,000 missions personnel around the world (outside of the U.S.) telling people about salvation through Jesus. And while some of that work is funded through your regular church gifts, a big part of their budget comes from the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions**. I suggest you give to this special offering as a Christmas gift (and birthday gift) to Jesus.

The next question you may be asking is, "How much should I give?" Every family situation is different, so I can't know how high you should go. I do have a suggestion concerning the minimum. Let me explain how I arrived at this. Our church goal for this special offering is \$1,750.00. Every penny of this goes to the work of the missionaries.

There are, in my estimation, 33 adults who regularly attend our church AND have salary or retirement income. I arrived at the figure of 33 by guess. If one family is a married couple, but only one of the two is working a fulltime job outside the home, that is only 1 person. If only one person, of a couple, is drawing retirement, that is one person. Again, this is just a guess on my part to give us some kind of figure as a base.

\$1,750 divided by 33 is \$53.03. So I suggest a minimum, per income-receiving adult of \$53.03.

Of the 33 adults with income, two or three may be genuinely unable to afford \$53.03. But the lifestyles of the rest of us show we can easily afford that relatively small amount. I certainly can. So I will be giving much more than that. I urge all of you who can afford much more to give much more. Remember, this is to help others hear about salvation in Jesus like we have.

Give generously.

Give prayerfully.

Give thankfully.

- pastor Robin