

# What does Jesus want for His birthday?

## Christmas Reflections

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Include these short reflections in your church newsletter each Sunday in December.

### Sunday 1: 4<sup>th</sup> December

#### What does Jesus want for His birthday? Baptist World Aid Australia's Christmas Appeal

With Christmas fast approaching, an obvious question to ask is 'what gifts will I purchase for my friends and family?' This Christmas an estimated \$23 Billion dollars will be spent on retail shopping in Australia alone.<sup>1</sup> For many (53%), however, the gifts they receive are unwanted and are simply returned, put in storage, or sold on eBay.<sup>2</sup> For those of us wanting to redirect our money into something worthwhile this Christmas, asking the question "what does Jesus want for his birthday?" may in fact provide us with the solution.

<sup>1</sup> Torch Media, Published 24/10/2011

<sup>2</sup> The Australian Institute, December 2005

### Sunday 2: 11<sup>th</sup> December

#### *"I was sick and you took care of me"* Matthew 25:36 Baptist World Aid Australia's Christmas Appeal

It was a bleak reality for those who got sick in first century Palestine. Without the benefits of modern medicine, inadequate healthcare facilities, poor sanitation and little money to get medical help, the risk of death was high. It is in this context that Jesus' healing work gains its full significance. Healing the sick meant a restored livelihood, improved well-being, and it often elicited a response of praise to God. Let's consider again Jesus' words, "I was sick and you looked after me," in the context of a modern world in which a large percentage of poor people don't experience the quality of life Jesus desires because of ill-health and sickness.

### Sunday 3: 18<sup>th</sup> December

#### *"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"* Matthew 25:35 Baptist World Aid Australia's Christmas Appeal

In 2010 there were 925 million people who were considered hungry (malnourished). This is 1 in 7 people out of the estimated world population of 7 billion.<sup>1</sup> Nearly all are in developing countries. In a world in which there is sufficient food to go around Jesus' words, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat," challenges us to consider practical ways to increase food availability for those who are hungry.

<sup>1</sup> World Hunger Education Service



**Christmas Appeal**

*Share an opportunity today!*

## Sunday 4: Christmas Day

### ***“I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink”* Matthew 25:35** **Baptist World Aid Australia’s Christmas Appeal**

Earth is known as the blue planet. Its surface is covered by water (almost 70%), and yet, less than three percent is fresh water on which all of human life depends. Unfortunately much of this water has been contaminated and contributes to 80% of world health problems, particularly in the developing world.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 884 million people still lack access to clean water. Jesus’ words, “I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,” has tremendous potential in reminding us of our responsibility to provide fresh water to those who need it.

<sup>1</sup> Global Water



**Christmas Appeal**

*Share an opportunity today!*