

## 2012 HOLIDAY UPDATE:

*With the national election taking front page emphasis in this year's combined Nov – Dec issue of the LEADERSHIP UPDATE, Supt. Darrel is sending you a few holiday reminders as we approach the special weeks of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.*

*May your congregation finish this year strong, penetrating the darkness of your local communities with the light and presence of Immanuel, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.*

### HOLIDAY RESOURCES:

**CHALLENGE YOUR CONGREGATION** to “rethink Christmas” by *buying one less gift, in order to give one strategic present in the name of Christ.* Go to [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org) for downloadable inspirational videos, facts & resources. (see two STRATEGIC PRESENT suggestions below)

**GENERAL OUTREACH IDEAS:** Lots of holiday ministry & outreach ideas are provided at [www.outreachmagazine.com](http://www.outreachmagazine.com). Click on IDEAS at the top tool bar, then click on FALL (Sept – Nov) and WINTER (Dec – Feb) in the drop down box for ideas and articles.

**MINISTER TO THOSE EXPERIENCING LOSS** this holiday season: Provide a special gathering & service for those in your area who have experienced a devastating loss, to help them cope with the holiday season. Google **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**; you'll find lots of sample services to help you create your own. My personal favorite at a first glance is [www.inspirecreativity.org/Blue](http://www.inspirecreativity.org/Blue) which posts a “Space to Bring Our Sadness to God” service.

### STRATEGIC PRESENT SUGGESTIONS:

#### **First Ever Joint Christmas Catalog: BETTER GIVING from International Child Care Ministries & SEED Livelihood Network**

This year ICCM and SEED offer a joint Christmas catalog, "Better Giving," that features a variety of creative and alternative opportunities for holiday giving - from giving water filters in honor of a loved one to purchasing hand-made bags that provide sustainable income for Free Methodists in one of SEED's international livelihood groups. Catalog copies can be requested from ICCM at 800-342-5531 or thru the online form at [www.childcareministries.org/](http://www.childcareministries.org/) under "contact us." A PDF of the catalog can also be accessed online at [bit.ly/iccmseed](http://bit.ly/iccmseed). Pastors, challenge your congregation to use their holiday dollars to become partners for economic justice, not simply consumers, this Christmas.

#### **SAC: Samaritan Village Inc**

During a national election year, corporate giving to non-profits always takes a dive. In talking to Rhonda Stapleton, founder and director of Samaritan Village in Orlando, this vital ministry to rebuilding the lives of street women was no exception. The support of congregations and individuals has kept Samaritan Village doors open this year. Your financial gifts and prayer before the end of the year would be especially timely. To learn more, to donate online or to get involved, go to [www.samaritanvillage.net](http://www.samaritanvillage.net) Checks can also be made out to Samaritan Village Inc and mailed to Samaritan Village, PO Box 555096 Orlando FL 32855.