

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!"

Well, maybe not really but Christmas is coming!

I love Christmas. Everything about Christmas. No, I don't leave lights up all year but there are a few plates and decorations that I use year round. My husband won't let me keep the tree up. Don't judge me. ☺

One of my favorite things to do is to give. I give of myself, my time, my finances. I also try my best to teach and share with others about how to do this. One organization that gives year round, and especially at Christmas time, is *Samaritan's Purse, International Relief*. As you listen to the news, you will discover that this is one organization that comes in after every hurricane, every fire, every disaster with tangible help and the message of the Gospel.

This year, as a school, we would like to collect for 'Operation Christmas Child' which fills shoeboxes with gifts. These boxes will be filled with one 'WOW' toy such as a ball, doll or stuffed animal. Then it will be completed with other items such as little toys, hygiene items and school supplies. We may **NOT** pack candy, toothpaste, used or damaged items, war-related items, seeds, food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items, or aerosol cans. Our goal this year is to fill 3 boxes per classroom.

We will be collecting items October 18th - November 13th. The shipping cost is \$9/box and the school will cover that with proceeds from our cookie dough sales.

Please do not make this something that you do alone. Get your child involved with you. Explain that there really are children around the world that would be thrilled with a tooth brush as a Christmas gift. ☺ Allow them to pick something out, and even perhaps use some money that they earn from doing a special job around the house.

Please see me if you have any questions.

Merry Christmas!

Miss Val