Greetings! 2004 was a very fulfilling and rewarding year for us. Looking forward to what’s ahead in 2005 -- will be awesome! As a New Year begins, it brings along with it new beginnings, hopes and aspirations. Our goal is to reach out to all whom we know need His Love and Hope . . . . A fitting pledge for 2005:

People are often unreasonable and self-centered, forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish motives, be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true friends, succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you, be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy it overnight, build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous, be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow, do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough, give the world the best you have anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God, It was never between you and them anyway. [Attributed to Mother Theresa]

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” -- 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)
Dec. 2004 highlights

Giving Christmas to the needy in our community was the highlight of our December 2004 outreach! Family Mission distributed 100s of free Christmas materials, such as: Christmas music CD’s in English and Spanish, Christmas Posters, and Christmas To Remember Booklets and music tapes! These items were used to benefit many needy families and individuals through community-oriented and sponsored programs like:

>> Santa Cop in Mesquite, TX
>> Christmas Cops in Plano, TX
>> Irving Cares Food Pantry

All totaled, our volunteers distributed:

- 200 “A Special Christmas Gift” Posters
- 200 “Man of Love” Christmas Posters
- 200 “The Wonder of Christmas’ Posters
- 400 “Little Drummer Boy” CD’s and Cards
- 100 “Little Drummer Boy” Tapes
- 100 “Christmas Treasures” Tapes
- 100 “Rhythm of Christmas” Tapes
- 1,300 Christmas items

Through these outreach programs at Christmas, many families received benefits who receive little or no assistance; or who through unexpected sickness, injury, financial crisis, or who were/are victims of crimes are seriously struggling and in need. We applaud the efforts of the volunteers, Police Depts. and concerned people in the community who have kept these programs going; some of these have regularly been helping for 20 or 30 years. And, we’re happy to be a participant in 2004.

Dec. 2004 highlights (continued)

Irving Cares provides emergency groceries to an average of 305 local families per month. Many of these families live at or below the poverty income level. Our Food Pantry is part of the safety net that helps families in crisis get back on their feet.

(courtesy of Irving Cares website: www.irvingcares.org)

The Santa Cop program

Based in Mesquite, TX -- Policemen helping families and kids for 30 years. (courtesy of www.crossroadriders.com) - nearly 200 families are beneficiaries of this ongoing benevolence program.

Irving Cares, Inc.

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