



GIVING in Spirit and Unity

By Mindy Ferguson

I saw God move in a powerful way one Christmas season as I took calls in my church office. Our leadership team had encouraged families within the church to provide Christmas gifts for needy families in our congregation anonymously. I was made aware of a young couple with a brand new baby who was struggling to make enough money for even their basic needs even though both parents were working.

When the young father was asked what his family needed, he simply replied, "We need a car seat and a safety gate for the baby, and I just want my wife to be happy." This young couple was struggling to buy groceries, they both needed shoes and warm clothing, yet all that this new daddy wanted was for his baby boy to be safe and his wife to be able to enjoy the Christmas season.

Within thirty minutes of that conversation, I received word that a member's employer was willing to provide gifts for a needy family. I could hardly keep from crying as I enthusiastically contacted the firm. They immediately agreed to provide the car seat and safety gate, but also said they would buy diapers, baby food, clothing and toys for the baby. One of the small groups in our congregation pooled their money and provided a gift certificate for the family so they could purchase groceries and household necessities.

One day, that precious young Christian couple will put the struggles and trials of this life behind them and eat freely at the Master's table. Christ's coming!

It was so exciting to see God provide for this family in abundance. And because the gifts were anonymous, the young couple felt showered by the love of Jesus Christ. The outpouring of the congregation reminded me of the spirit and unity of another group of believers from the early church led by the apostles Peter and John:

The whole congregation of believers was united as one--one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them. And so it turned out that not a person among them was in need. (Acts 4:32-34a)

Catch the same Spirit as the early church as you celebrate Christmas this year. Share your love, share your possessions, and most of all share the good news of Christ's coming!

Merry Christmas!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mindy Ferguson writes women's Bible studies and speaks to women's groups with messages of encouragement and hope. Mindy served on the praise and worship team for Beth Moore Bible Studies in Houston, Texas, from the fall of 1996 through the spring of 2001. President and founder of Fruitful Word Ministries, she lives in a suburb of Houston, Texas with her husband and two children. Visit her web site at www.fruitfulword.org.

Christmas