



Alternative Gifts International

www.alternativegifts.org

October 2007 E-Bulletin



Interfaith Fast to End the War in Iraq October 8, 2007

Religious leaders from several traditions invite you to join with millions of other Americans participating in interfaith events in your local community from dawn to dusk on Monday, October 8. It is suggested that the time be used breaking of bread, fasting, and breaking the fast together as we covenant together to live out the deepest calling in each of our faith traditions - the desire for justice and peace for all people.

For more information visit <http://www.interfaithfast.org>.

United Nations Day 2007 Wednesday, October 24

In 2000, the United Nations (UN) adopted eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education -- all by the target date of 2015. Results achieved so far demonstrate that success is possible in most countries, but that the MDGs will be attained only if concerted action is taken immediately and sustained until 2015. Some of the key challenges that must be addressed are:

- The number of people dying from AIDS worldwide increased to 2.9 million in 2006, and prevention measures are failing to keep pace with the growth of the epidemic.
- Half the population of the developing world lack basic sanitation.

Visit www.un.org/millenniumgoals for a full report.

AGI gifts make great gifts for:

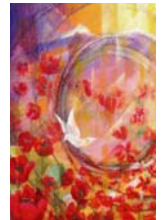
Oct. 2: Mahatma Ghandi's Birthday (International Day of Non-Violence)

In honor of Ghandi's birthday, the United Nations has declared October 2 to be the "International Day of Non-Violence." We suggest the following projects, and [Card B – Celebrations](#).

[Project 32 – Peacemakers at Work / Columbia & Palestine](#)

[Project 33 – Women for Peace / USA & Global](#)

[Project 34 – Young Peace Builders / USA & Global](#)



Oct. 24: United Nations Day

In addition to the UN's Millennium Development Goals, AGI's projects address many of the needs of our world's poorest neighbors.

Select from the following using [Card G – Global Gift for All Seasons](#).

[Project 1 – Teens with AIDS / Uganda](#)

[Project 16 – Staying Alive & Well with AIDS / Indonesia](#)

[Project 21 – Sanitation Solutions / Mexico](#)

[Project 27 – Cows & Carts / Mozambique](#)



October 1-31: Disability Awareness Month (National)

Almost everyone will develop physical or other disabilities at some point. We are all "temporarily abled". Help provide a better quality of life for someone by selecting from the following projects and using [Card C – Love & Strength for All](#).

[Project 2 – New Life for Children with Disabilities / Vietnam](#)

[Project 3 – Children with Cancer / Tanzania & East Africa](#)

[Project 14 – TV & Better Nutrition for Lepers / China](#)

[Project 17 – Cataract Surgery / Nepal & Tibet](#)

[Project 22 – Mainstreaming Polio Victims / DR of the Congo](#)



Attention Teachers:

Community Service Opportunities for your Students

Alternative Gift Markets (AGMs) are the perfect venue for combining global education with service learning or community service hours for your students. If you would like specific ideas or suggestions on holding an AGM, we can connect you to schools that have used AGI materials.

Steven Epstein at The Fraser-Woods School wrote:

“We’re a small private school, grades pre-K through 8th. We have 33 students in our middle school (grades 6, 7 and 8). The gift market is an 8th year Leadership Project (15 students this year). They will be divided into groups and each group will select a charity they would like to sponsor. Each group researches their charity and the country. They also make an oral presentation to the rest of the middle school and our 4th and 5th year students. The school has a holiday celebration for students and parents in December and the 8th years run their market during this time.”

See the narrative on Project 34: Young Peace Builders, which explains the experience of Wichita (KS) East High School's National Honor Society's first Alternative Gift Market. NHS Sponsor, Jennifer Fry, can be reached by email at jfry@usd259.net.

Tell us your ideas . . .

This month we'd like to hear from you about how you have used the [Children & Youth Pages](#) link on our website.

On this link, and you'll find a special children's level of gifts which include:



- One therapy session for a child with disabilities in Vietnam / \$5.00
- Plant and nurture one tree in Haiti / \$1.00
- Provide one meal for a worker who protects the mountain gorilla in Rwanda / \$3.00
- One week's worth of milk and snacks for one child in the Gaza Strip (Palestine) / \$3.00
- One bicycle tire repair kit for women or girls in Tanzania & Namibia / \$3.00

We'll send 5 catalogs and a gift pack of 5 free cards to the people with the five most unique answers!

Winner of September E-bulletin Contest

Thanks go to Marla Hohmeier in Downers Grove, Illinois for the wonderful ideas and suggestions she sent in response to last month's contest. She will receive 5 AGI catalogs and a gift pack of 5 free cards.



We asked the question “Where do you think people might pick up an AGI catalog?” Marla's reply was:

- Park Districts (they will put out parenting magazines, and in the senior areas they have various flyers, brochures and magazines—this catalog can appeal to EVERYONE because it contains such unique gift ideas)
- Senior Centers
- College Clubs (some college clubs might like to give out a catalog for students involved in clubs that help, provide assistance or aid, or environmental clubs).

Other ideas she shared with us were:

- This would be a great project for a classroom of grade school kids. They could sponsor one of AGI's projects and then learn about how it is helping others, and who the people are, where they live, etc.
- You could donate to an AGI project and then give it as a Christmas present along with a book relating to the project, such as, for a donation to plant trees, you could buy a book on trees; for a donation that helps to send a girl to school, you could buy a little book with positive sayings from famous females, etc.

Thanks, Marla!

Reminder: Project E-liminate Paper Waste

Please let us know if you prefer to read our newsletters, annual reports, and catalogs on-line. You can opt out of paper mailings by sending an email to AGI@altgifts.org with your name and address where you receive the materials. Let us know which materials you do not wish to receive by 'snail' mail.