



December 20, 2004

**Christmas and the New Year are rapidly approaching.  
It is a time of great celebration around the world.**

For some, it will be a time of plenty--gifts and food with leftovers to be thrown into waste bins. This reminds me of two bible stories:

The story of the rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day while the beggar named Lazarus, laid at the rich man=s gate desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from his table.

The second story is that of Jesus= encounter with a woman of Canaan crying to Him because her daughter was severely demon-possessed. Through the conversation of the two we read this: **It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs. And she said yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table.**

In the first story, the poor Lazarus wanted to be fed with the crumbs falling from the rich man=s table. In the second story the woman of Canaan says that even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table. Can you see the contrast? Crumbs are for dogs but in some cases even people cannot get those crumbs!!!

I witness this situation almost every day. Some weeks ago, I visited a widow whose husband died of AIDS and left her with five children--all girls. Can you imagine how vulnerable a girl living in poor conditions can be? Can you imagine what a girl who cannot even get crumbs to eat from some

people's table will do to have her daily bread? Go out with other men; yet this is the condition of the widow's daughters. The consequence of this situation is that one of them is now HIV positive and in worse condition than her mother. She is in what doctors call terminal phase of the disease.

At this time of year many people have saved money (maybe some did not need to save) for big Christmas and New Year celebrations. Others in very difficult conditions do not have enough for their daily food--for them Christmas and New Year will be almost like any other day.

While you will be feasting, ACTS ministry would like you to pray for all those orphans and widows who do not have the means for any celebration. Some orphans or street children will be walking across roads or going from door to door begging for food. They will be looking for crumbs.

Remember those hungry boys and girls. Remember the widows who want to prepare food for their children but cannot afford it. Pray this prayer with us:

**Our Heavenly Father, hear the cries of widows and orphans  
and provide for them.**



ACTS ministry is very conscious of the plight of widows and orphans in Burkina Faso and would like to give some of them a chance to celebrate. A service will be organized at the church in the village where ACTS ministry is based and food will be served to widows and orphans. We will give them an opportunity to rejoice with singing and dancing on Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please pray for the success of this plan to bring

Christmas Joy to needy people.

It is ACTS desire to extend loving care to widows and orphans living in the least reached places of Burkina Faso. We know this is on your heart as well. Please consider a gift at this time of the year.

Thank you very much for your prayers and support. May the Lord continue to bless you for what you are doing to assist us in ministering to the poor.

**Happy and blessed Christmas to all!!**

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