



December is full of “consume more!” messages, Jesus comes to show us abundant life. Let’s turn, together. While meditating on the day’s theme, color in the shapes labeled with the day’s number and color listed in the reflection (or pick your own). With gratitude for your luxuries, send your taxes to GWP c/o Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120 (write checks to GWP).

1 (MAROON) Advent=coming. Jesus comes to set the oppressed free! Who is oppressed in your community? Pick a specific person/group to pray for during Advent. Luke 4:16-21

2 (DARK TEAL) GWP is rooted in the Church of the Brethren, with volunteer Steering Committee members sharing leadership since 1978. Not all in the US are rich (and not all rich live in the US), but GWP’s education about luxuries is focused on the US as our own social and cultural context. Our empowerment is intrinsically linked to that of women and men around the world. Send a thank-you to a woman in your life. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

3 (LIGHT GREEN) Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP) is a partner project of GWP, holistically supports their community in Kerala, India. “Everything they owned was held in common....There was not a needy person among them”. Check your Christmas lists: what could you borrow/lend rather than buy? Acts 4:32-37

4 (LIGHT TEAL) We celebrate Mary’s courage to bear God-in-flesh, even though she was young and unmarried. Human trafficking is a pervasive issue in India affecting at least 23,117 Indians annually, though, these statistics are likely low due to underreporting. Tax: \$.50 for each year you haven’t been trafficked. Isaiah 1:13-17 _____

5 (GOLD) CAP initiated a program to distribute vulnerability kits to the families of Korangotta Island. An Island surrounded by surplus water while there is scarcity of drinking water. Tax: \$.25 for each glass of water you drank today. _____

6 (ORANGE) 74.8% of rural women in India are agricultural workers but only 9.3 percent own the land. Tax: \$5 if you’ve ever owned property. Jeremiah 31:15 _____

7 (DARK GREEN) In India under-aged marriage has appeared as a prominent cause for not attending school among girls. 13% of girls are married before they turn 17. Tax: \$2 for each member of your family with a high school degree. _____

8 (ORANGE) Travel has a potent impact on climate change and climate change disproportionately impacts countries like India close to the equator. Tax: 1% of the cost of your last trip. _____

9 (SKIN) CAP offers a short stay home to help women in distress and need. The shelter includes a safe and secure stay for women and girls below the poverty line. Tax: \$0.05 for each year your household was above the poverty line. _____

10 (PINK) Kerala, is the best performing state with 96.6% of urban poor children attending school (UNICEF). Tax: \$0.10 for each year you attended school. _____

11 (SKIN) Buying presents this Christmas? Support women-owned businesses, find a list at womenownedlogo.com. 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

12 (GOLD) 3.4% of live births in India result in death before the age five. Tax: \$1.50 for each fatality-free birth in your family. _____

13 (SKIN) Babies are beloved and bring hope, though pregnancy and child-raising are a burden for many women, families, communities – and our planet! Meditate on this complexity. Psalm 139:1-18

14 (BLUE) 32% of girls in urban India ages 15-17 work as unpaid family laborers (UNICEF). Tax: \$.10 for each year pre-18 that you did not work to support your family. _____

15 (ORANGE) CAP has an initiative training women to be autorickshaw drivers, empowering them to support their families financially with a steady income. Tax: \$0.50 for each year of postsecondary education. _____

16 (BROWN) The US leads the world in calories, protein and fat per person. Tax: \$.50 for each indulgent food/drink you enjoyed this weekend. _____

17 (DARK PURPLE) In India, a country with more than 1.2 billion people, one in every three children is malnourished. If you do the math, that’s 46 million kids exhibiting symptoms of malnourishment, such as anemia and stunted growth. (World Food Program). Tax: \$.10 per item in your fridge. _____

18 (LIGHT GREEN) If women farmers had access to the same resources as men, 150 million more people would have enough food to eat (Heifer Int’l). Matthew 13:33

19 (DARK BROWN) People without privilege have to creatively persist to feed their families. Luke 18:1-8 Tax: \$1.80 if you’ve ever gotten a loan from family, friends or a bank. _____

20 (MAROON) Check your kitchen, pantry, basement, and freezer. Estimate how many days’ worth of food you have on hand. Matthew 6:25-34 Tax: \$.30/day _____

21 (DARK TEAL) Does your state pay restaurant workers minimum wage + tips? (Only 7 do.) Tax: \$.75 for each time you tipped less than 25% in the past week. Jeremiah 7:1-7 _____

22 (GOLD) Women produce 80% of the developing world’s food, yet make up 70% of the world’s poor (Heifer International). Research Community Supported Agriculture in your community & consider buying a share offered by a woman.

23 (DARK BLUE) Have you celebrated a holiday with an empty stomach? Be thankful with each bite you eat today. Tax: \$.50 per meal you ate distracted yesterday (in the car, with a screen, at your desk...) Isaiah 55:1-2 _____

24 (PURPLE) Even after a feast, we get hungry again. Savor the mindfulness and spiritual practice you’ve feasted on with this Advent calendar, and know that you will be hungry for more. Did you pray for that person/group all month? What now? Isaiah 55:3-8

25 (GOLD) Celebrate God-in-flesh with your own body, family and community. Merry Christmas from Global Women’s Project! Isaiah 55:9-13

TOTAL _____

Artwork by Jessie Long