

## What Shall I Render

By Mercedes L. Miller

Altruism is the un-  
der devotion to the well-  
being of others.  
During July of 2002,  
I rested upon my shoulder  
a hot doughnut. While  
implementing programs  
with the United Nations,  
I passionately worked  
with the Honorable  
Christine Kapalata -  
Minister Counselor to  
Tanzania.



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Kapalata fervidly touted altruism as the soothing balm for healing a progressively sick land.

The country of Tanzania is bordered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rand and Burundi. These African nations are in continual political, social and spiritual unrest. When despairing groups of people from these countries seek refuge, they desperately flee to Tanzania. According to Kapalata, Tanzania unselfishly serves as their "island of peace."

With open borders serving as welcoming arms, Tanzanians give of the little they have to aid others. In a nurturing manner, they embrace the outcasts and provide for their stability. Disregarding personal own lack, their rendering of service provides an asylum to those in need.

What will you render? Minister Counselor Kapalata wholeheartedly embraces the resounding notion that "community service and volunteering should be based on a concept of sharing and giving to society and making a difference." Yet so often the "principles behind community service are good but there is also some selfishness."

In your daily existence, whatever the situation with which you are faced, your ability to use your gifts and talents through the guidance of God provides a framework for how you may assist others.

In the parable of the talents, each individual servant was distributed talents according to his ability. When these talents were invested for the prelation of the Kingdom, the return provided gain for the prosperous ruler, the dutiful servant as well as the land. The balm begins and continues the healing process as those who will do. All can, but will you?

Too many hesitant individuals, reluctant families and cautious entities are waiting until the right time, a certain amount of resources or a specific event is perfect before they will extend themselves to others. The time is now; the resources needed are exactly what you have; the event is the need of another.

Whether you effectually term it community service, outreach, missions, volunteerism or giving back, your ability to share begins right where you are with what you possess.

The unselfish regard for or devotion to the welfare of others serves as a catalyst to rectifying the social and spiritual ills of the land. The land consists of our immediate community, state, country, continent and world. Like Tanzanians, we must reach across borders and receive others into our mental, spiritual and physical boundaries to ensure our human capital is maximized for God's glory.

Whatever you have been meticulously considering, turn your consideration into an action. Find a church, organization or activity that can utilize your human investment establishing certainty for great return.

Each of us has the power and authority to impact the life of another thereby contouring our own lives. Wanting, wishing and hoping have no bearing on change, as faith without works is dead. When you choose not to labor, your choice shapes a lifeless existence. Resuscitate the corpse: Breathe altruism.

Where ailment is prevalent, apply the balm you have been granted. Deliberately foster a selfless regard for and loyalty to the well-being of others. Decide to bequeath your natural resources upon the Kingdom of God. Endeavor to endow because we either share what we have or we lose it to selfishness and idleness. With the state of our world, it is spiritually uneconomic for us to squander resources - souls will be lost forever because of our indiscretion.

Render your gifts and talents constantly, continuously and consistently. The salvation and eternity of souls are at stake. What will you render?

To contact Mercedes L. Miller for speaking, training or writing call 336-748-1955 or write to PO Box 25451, Winston-Salem, NC 27114.

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O'Come All  
Ye Faithful

Wishing peace, love  
and happiness for you  
and yours.

Missionary  
Annie Lou

## THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AT OLD SALEM OFFERS CHRISTMAS NATIVITY MAKING THIS DECEMBER

Winston Salem, NC- The Children's Museum at Old Salem is pleased to offer a special holiday class for children.

The Christmas Scherenschnitte class teaches children how to cut a nativity scene from paper. This class, starting at 3 p.m. on Sunday December 15, is open to children ages 5-9 and their parents. This class is free to Kater Klub members and free to the public with museum admission.

For more information and required pre-registration, please call the museum at (336) 779-6150.

The Children's Museum at Old Salem uses the history of Salem and the Moravians to educate and entertain children ages 4 through 9.

The museum is located in the Frank L. Horton Museum Center, 924 South Main Street, in Old Salem.

## HOLIDAY EVENTS

OF EXTRAORDINARY VALUE  
5th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th and 14th Dec.

Special Candlelight Tours

at 6:30, 7 and 7:30 p.m. nightly

Call 721-7352 for reservations and costs.

December 7th, from noon to 4 p.m.

## MESDA YULETIDE

Call 721-7360 or 721-7300 - prices, descriptions.

14th December - 10 a.m., 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

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4-7 p.m., December 26th, Old Salem historic district  
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www.oldsalem.org / 721-7300