

## WHY WE HAVE CHRISTMAS CARE

Rob Robinson

We are about to begin preparing for one of our most ambitious ministries annually. On Sunday, November 19, we will officially kick-off preparations for this year's Christmas Care event, which will take place on Sunday, December 17, 2017. Please mark your calendar now so that you can make your holiday plans around Christmas care. It will be one of the most important and gratifying events you will participate in this holiday season. Also, please take a few moments right now, as you read the following comments, to reflect on why we conduct this event.

It is clear that the God who revealed himself to the world through the person of Jesus Christ, and who saves us who believe in Christ, cares about the hungry. He is pleased when Christians give generously and gladly to feed them. Jesus teaches us that, at the judgment, those who are saved will hear the pronouncement, *"Come, you who Father, inherit for you from the world. For I was me food, I was me drink, I was a welcomed me, I clothed me, I visited me, I was came to me."* *...We must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* Acts 20:35 *who are saved will are blessed by my the kingdom prepared foundation of the hungry and you gave thirsty and you gave stranger and you was naked and you in prison and you*

Apparently the Lord does not intend to say that to those who have not actually done those things. We realize that we will not be saved by doing enough such good works. But the Lord does expect that those receive the gift of salvation will be the kind of people who do such things. When TRCOC conducts Christmas Care, not only are we helping the needy, we are providing one another the opportunity to be involved personally in a work of ministry and compassion that brings joy and meaningful relief to others and pleasure to our Father in heaven. *"...We must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

There are hungry people all over the world. We continually hear of famines in far away places, and most recently of the thousands deprived of food and even water by the storm that devastated Puerto Rico. We might wonder what we can do. But right here in Macon, Georgia, there are hungry and needy people. They may be recently unemployed who do not receive benefits or whose benefits have run out. Some are elderly grandparents who have custody of several young children and have to stretch a modest income to care for everyone. Our congregation is going to help a considerable number of such people, well over 100 families.

There will be opportunities for every person who attends TRCOC to participate. Put Christmas Care on your calendar and get involved in our preparations beginning this month so you can take part in a ministry that will please the Lord, help the needy, enable you to grow spiritually, and be fun and exciting as well!

Matthew 25:34–36, Acts 20:35