Each of your Alternative Christmas gifts can be designated for any of the following categories, or to any other Special Projects on the Global Ministries website, listed under each Mission Area. Thanks to the generous support of Our Church’s Wider Mission and Disciples Mission Fund, 100% of your gift will go towards the stated cause without administrative or bank fees.

A General Gift to Global Ministries
Your general support of the work of Global Ministries is critical. Unrestricted gifts allow Global Ministries to provide important pastoral presence and international expertise to strengthen the global engagement and significant witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ together with global partners in the challenges and joys that Christians in every part of the world live out every day.

Education
For many families a choice has to be made between sending their child to school, or sending their child to work. Unfortunately, this decision is not made by the parents, but by their circumstances – often poverty robs parents of the opportunity to give their child a better future because of immediate demands on their limited resources.

Global Ministries works with partners that provide practical educations that families can afford that restore many of the opportunities that poverty has taken away.

Gifts for education this year will benefit King’s Matriculation School in India
- $15 could provide school supplies for a child
- $40 could start to build a resource library
- $75 could help to repair a classroom

Microcredit
The power of micro-credit lies in its foundational belief that given certain economic conditions of the marketplace, many people victimized by poverty are capable of supporting themselves if they have access to the small amount of capital necessary for starting their own income-generation activity or business. In most micro-credit projects, groups make loans to individuals, and these loans are repaid with a small amount of interest so that additional funds can be made available to the group. These groups tend to be almost entirely female, as women face greater challenges than men in securing funds through traditional sources like banks and money lenders.

Global Ministries works with partners who have established these groups to provide additional seed money, so that these opportunities can be extended to a greater number of people.

Gifts for Microcredit this year will benefit microcredit groups in Colombia
- $20 could provide a loan for a woman to stock the shelves of her new shop
- $60 could provide a loan for women to expand their microcredit group
- $150 could provide a loan for materials for an indigenous group of weavers
Water
In many parts of the world, clean safe drinking water is luxury. Whether due to drought, pollution, or failing infrastructure, the search for water is a chore that often removes children from classrooms and parents from their work.

Global Ministries works with international partners to provide clean safe drinking water with systems that utilize local talent and equipment so that the water solutions can be sustainably maintained.

Gifts for Water this year will support the digging of new wells in China

- $25 could provide some of the needed materials for a well
- $75 could provide a water pump
- $125 could provide water to 50 people

Health
Whether it is a devastating diagnosis of cancer or AIDS or something as common as a broken bone or infected scrape, medical problems are a misfortune that few families in developing countries can afford. Sickness not only means costly medications and doctor’s bills, but it also means a loss of wages. This can mean the failure of a small family business, an inability to harvest crops, or the necessity of taking a child out of school.

Global Ministries promotes access to health care so that communities that have been ignored by the more formal systems, may be empowered to exercise their basic human right of health for all through prevention, treatment and promotion of adequate health care systems throughout the world.

Gifts for Health this year will support the Ebola Responses of partners in Africa

- $50 could provide financial support for a new doctor
- $100 could help start a community health chest
- $300 could provide support for a medical clinic

A Gift for Missionary Support
For over two centuries, Global Ministries, beginning with its predecessor mission bodies, has sent individuals whose passion for Christ’s Good News and God’s People have served in a mutual sharing of God’s abundant life. Through disasters, dictators, and despair, mission personnel walk together with international partners and communities as they develop ministries that sustain all of God’s creation.

This year’s gifts will be used to make possible:

- Paul Turner will be serving with the Disciples of Christ Community in the Congo. He will assist with their development programs that provide health, education, water, and economic opportunities.
- Anne Gregory will be serving with the Church of Christ in Thailand. She will assist with their communication efforts that build awareness of human trafficking and other challenges facing the people of Thailand.

For more information visit globalministries.org/alternative-christmas.html or call 317-713-2574