



It's a Friday morning, the last day of the work week. But the end of the week doesn't mean the end of work for the co-op members, who often stay late to discuss business issues or hold board meetings. Saturdays are spent studying up on business practices.

But all that hard work is worth it for the co-op members, said Julia Yadira Vallejos, a co-op member. Nueva Vida provides a tranquil, safe, consistent job and environment for its 33 employees, Yadira said.

Those are valuable qualities for the employees of the co-op, which was founded by a group of women in 2001 as a response to 1998's Hurricane Mitch. Many of the founders and their families lived on the edge of Lake Managua, which flooded after the hurricane. They moved to a new neighborhood after the storm and eventually got help from a US faith-based organization, Jubilee House Community.



The women decided to sell T-shirts after conducting market research and finding that the products seemed to be a sustainable business. With funding from Jubilee House, the women bought building

materials, but they didn't have enough to hire a contractor. So they built the factory themselves. It took two and a half years, but finally the building was completed.

In the first years of the co-op, the women worked only on the production side of things, while Jubilee House staff handled the administrative side. But after seven years of this arrangement, the women decided they wanted more control of the co-op, and it became independent.

Learning to handle administrative functions was very hard, said Yadira. The co-op members had to learn everything from export regulations how to order materials and run the payroll. With help from other nonprofit groups, including a micro-financing group in Nicaragua, the women got the training they needed. The continued Saturday study sessions are proof of their dedication to taking control of their co-op.

"It was difficult, but not impossible," Yadira said, adding that they are grateful for the confidence their clients have in them.

One such client is the Presbyterian Church (USA.), which often purchases large quantities of T-shirts from Nueva Vida. The 2007 Presbyterian Youth Triennium T-shirts were made by Nueva Vida.

"It's very important to buy the products directly from those who are actually producing them," Yadira said.

Not all employees of Nueva Vida are members of the co-

op. After one year of employment, workers are eligible to join the co-op board. Employees earn the Nicaraguan minimum wage of about \$140 a month, with the possibility to earn more if they produce more T-shirts. The work is largely seasonal, with about six or seven months' worth of orders a year, but employees are paid their salaries no matter the season.



To learn more and/or to order Nueva Vida T-shirts in any quantity, go to:

www.pcusa.org/enough

and click on the Sweat-Free T's link.

**ON WHY
YOU SHOULD BUY
DON JUSTO
COFFEE**

(Reason #1 of 1,000,000)

Posted on January 15, 2014, The Woman Who Walks Between Worlds, by Rev. Katherine Pater, the Presbytery of Des Moines' Mission Co-worker in El Salvador

Did you know that Our Sister Parish has a coffee project that sells delicious, justly-traded coffee? Did you know that most of the proceeds from that coffee go to help the Pastoral Team encourage, educate, and empower the people of Berlin as they seek to lift themselves out of poverty?



We do many things with the funds we earn from the coffee project. We provide transportation to hospitals and medicine for sick members of Berlín's impoverished communities. We help to provide families who have nothing to eat with food.

But sometimes, we like to use those funds for something a little different.

Last week, we went to visit Cantón Las Delicias. A relatively large community, Las Delicias has a fair number of families that have not been included in any development/empowerment projects sponsored by NGOs or the government. There are a few people that do have family in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere, but there are many more that do not receive help in that way, either. Knowing this, the Pastoral Team asked the leaders of this community to give us a list of about 20 families who were managing to survive on nothing but their own efforts and the kindness of their neighbors. Many of these families are large, headed by single mothers, or consist of single widows who are too elderly to farm and have no one to support them. One widow, a woman in her 80s, is also struggling to care for her son, who has a debilitating, long-term illness.

The Team decided that these families were in need of some love and encouragement, so

using some of the proceeds we have earned through the coffee project, we delivered to each family a small gift basket containing a bit of food, cooking oil, and a towel...things that every person needs but these families cannot afford to buy.

The families, particularly the elderly widows, were quite thankful for the gift. After joking about how young I looked (I get that a lot), they proceeded to stand up, one by one, and offer their thanks. Blanca thanked them for their words and said, "These gifts were purchased with the help of the proceeds from a coffee project. So if you are thankful for them, please pray that people in the United States buy more coffee!"



"Cabal! Así es! Sí!" Of course! That's it! Yes!

In Las Delicias, Berlín, El Salvador, there is a small group of widows praying that you will buy more coffee. So what's your excuse for not doing it? You can order it on the Our Sister Parish website and have it shipped anywhere in the United States. It's tastier than Starbucks in my humble

(but as a former barista, educated) opinion and we purchase it from a small coffee grower who pays her workers a living wage. Everyone wins, including you. So go and buy some!

It's easy to order!

DON JUSTO COFFEE WITH DIGNITY



Email:

donjustocoffee@gmail.com

or click on the link at

www.oursisterparish.org

Full pound bags, whole bean or ground, just \$10:
Regular Roast, Dark Roast, French Roast, Snickeroo, and NEW! Mocha (ground only)

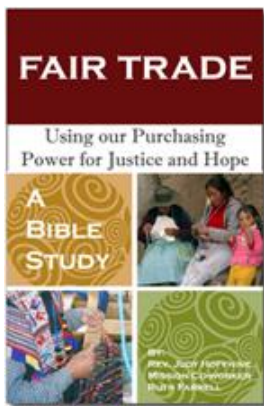
Or try a single-pot sample size packet of any (or all!) of these flavors, already ground, for just \$1 each!

FAIR TRADE: USING OUR PURCHASING POWER FOR JUSTICE AND HOPE

A Bible study by Ruth Brand Farrell and Rev. Judy Hoffhine

People of faith seek both definition and guidance from God as we make choices in our lives. As we learned more about Fair Trade, we saw the

convergence of its nine basic Key Principles with the Judeo-Christian teachings of justice. There-fore, creating a Bible Study that helps us understand and be actively involved in God's vision for the well-being of all of creation excited us at Partners for Just Trade [a non-profit, faith-based organization that began as an initiative of the Presbyterian Hunger Program].



Fair Trade: Using Our Purchasing Power for Justice and Hope, walks the reader through the principles of Fair Trade by means of personal narration, Bible passages, questions for reader to reflect upon, and challenges to engage the reader in learning about Fair Trade. We provide a re-source list for further study.

To use *Fair Trade: Using Our Purchasing Power for Justice and Hope*, you only need to have a Bible nearby although it might be helpful to have access to the suggested resources while doing the study.

You can do this study alone or with a group. It is divided into six segments. It can take as much or little time as you have; even a quick study will bring ideas and thoughts about

how important our lifestyles are to the well-being of people we do not even know. A deeper study will take you to a university for classes or to the library for books or to the computer to find some websites.



"Many people in our churches are committed to pursuing economic justice and environmental sustainability and are seeking good resources with practical suggestions that might guide them to a deeper faithfulness. *Fair Trade: Using Our Purchasing Power for Justice and Hope* is just the kind of resource that can help.

"It illumines the biblical and theological grounding for these commitments and guides us toward asking ourselves appropriate questions. It makes clear the connections between our decisions as consumers and our desire to create a more equitable system of exchange. In a very down-to-earth and accessible format, this resource provides just the right balance of information and inspiration."

Anna Case-Winters
 Professor of Theology, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago

Editor's Note:

Copies of the Bible study are available from Des Moines Presbytery's Joining Hands team. Contact the Presbytery office or HAE Nancy Lister-Settle to borrow.

LIFESTYLE OR LIFE?

by Teresa Heinz, from the Preface to *Shopping for a Better World*

An architect friend of mine, one who has thought at length about the ways in which products and services are designed, likes to point out that most advertising is aimed at consumers with lifestyles rather than people with lives. The truth goes beyond advertising. Almost all of us at some point in our lives buy into the essential falsehood of the modern marketplace that we are consumers.



Consumerism represents a one-dimensional view of our relationship with products. No matter how extensively times may change, consumerism remains steadfast in its core belief that we human beings have the capacity to care about only one thing at a time. The "thing" may change; in the '80s, it was status; in the '90s it was security. But whether it appeals to materialism or fear, consumerism is always about one thing—a lifestyle measured in terms of products. Consumers are people defined by their parts, by specific desires and particular needs. Consumers have the same relationship to real people as cardboard cut-out figures do, except the cardboard figures have more depth.

The trouble with consumerism is that it suggests a world in which people are merely extensions of products, when the reverse is true. People are not extensions of products. The things we buy are extensions of ourselves—of our values, beliefs, dreams, and needs, real and perceived. Our lives are much more complicated than consumerism allows. Yes, we want clean kitchens. But we also want safe drinking water, equal opportunity for everyone's daughters and sons, safe and fair working conditions, and an environment in which nature's gift of creation can continue.

Can we have all these things and clean sinks, too? The consumer in us instinctively answers, "No." We fear the painful trade-offs that we have been duped into believing must be required. Lurking in our well-indoctrinated minds is the image of the cave that we suspect we are being asked to return to, a world without modern conveniences.



This fear stems from consumerism's doctrine that what is being offered at any one time is the best that can be offered. Despite all the promises, consumerism is more about limits than about possibilities. It says we cannot have a car that is safe, stylish, and energy efficient. It says

we cannot have cleaning products that work well and are environmentally benign. It says we cannot impose social objectives on manufacturers and expect them to produce affordable products.

The truth is, we can. Innovative people and companies have begun to demonstrate, in the marketplace, how well-designed products and systems can fulfill their primary functions without sacrificing other things that also genuinely matter to us.

We can encourage this trend by rewarding those companies and products that see us for the multi-dimensional beings we are, with lives that are rich, complex, and valuable.

Editor's note:

How much do you really know about each company you support with your hard-earned dollars? Does it pour toxic materials into our rivers and atmosphere? Does it aggressively promote cigarettes even though an estimated 2.5 million people die every year as a consequence of smoking? Or does it invest in pollution prevention, donate significant portions of its profits to charity, revitalize local communities, and value the expertise of women and minorities at the highest levels of management? A great resource is "Shopping for a Better World" where you can find information you need to select products made by companies whose policies and practices you support. From The Council on Economic Priorities, published by Sierra Club Books.

RUSHING TO NOWHERE

by Art Simon, from "How Much Is Enough? Hungering for God in an Affluent Culture"

They were running hand in hand, and the Queen went so fast that it was all [Alice] could do to keep up with her; and still the Queen kept crying, "Faster! Faster!"...

The most curious part of the thing was that...however fast they went, they never seemed to pass anything...

"In our country," said Alice...

"you'd generally get to somewhere else—if you ran very fast for a long time as we've been doing."

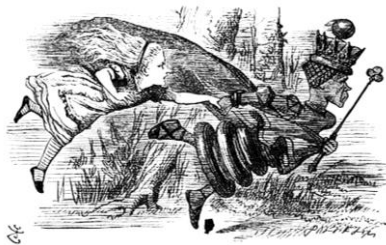
"A slow sort of country!" said the Queen. "Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that."

Lewis Carroll, "Through the Looking Glass"

Ours is a restless culture. Life has become excessively busy for a large portion of the population. Stress is almost built into our body clocks. I am not a fast driver, probably slower than most. But sometimes I find myself hurrying to get somewhere—switching lanes, passing traffic, going through yellow lights—when it occurs to me that the only thing putting pressure on me to rush is my own state of mind.

Stress, of course, may come from trying to help others as much as possible. Far more often it reflects a culture that pervades a thousand habits. Our wants are constantly expanding and our income usually lags behind. More hours to work, more things to do, and more places to go create pressure. Far from producing a sense of inner peace, this style of life nurtures a spiritual void.

Almost two centuries ago, Alexis de Tocqueville observed both the restlessness and the “strange melancholy” of Americans in the midst of prosperity. Although they were paupers compared to their counterparts of today, Tocqueville said that “Americans cleave to the things of this world as if assured that they will never die, and yet are in such a rush to snatch any that come within their reach, as if expecting to stop living before they have relished them. They clutch everything but hold nothing fast, and so lose grip as they hurry after some new delight.”



As the twenty-first century began and the United States was about to achieve ten years of unbroken economic growth, *The New York Times* reported as “a central fact of American life” that “most of the nation’s 72 million families feel they cannot make ends meet.” Middle-income working families were making more money than ever, but family debt and hours spent at work had also risen. What stresses them, the article said, are expenditures: new clothes, child care, lessons, eating out, movies, home decoration, big-screen television sets, computers, stereo systems, Christmas gifts, and saving for college and retirement. For these expenses, most families needed more than one income.

About the same time, a national poll of women revealed that two of their major concerns were the time crunch (more time at work, less with family) and a perceived decline in the nation’s moral values. Ironically, those polled also thought that the best way to reverse the decline in moral values was for parents to spend more time with their children.

According to another poll, most Americans feel that new technological advances such as cell phones and the internet give people less rather than more free time. Most of those surveyed say they would rather have an extra day off than an extra day’s pay. The new technology keeps us working more than ever but feeling like we are slipping further behind.

How much of our spending is culturally imposed and how much represents wise and faithful investment is a question that begs for consideration. Parents, families, and groups within the church could make this question part of their walk with God. The answer is neither self-evident nor the same for everyone. But the grace of God that undergirds discipleship provides the necessary common ground. What would giving all these things to God mean? Which ones might we get rid of? Which might we think of and use in a different way?

Timothy was advised that “godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.” (I

Tim. 6:6-8) It may have been easier, even better, for Christians of the first century than for their Western counterparts of the twenty-first century to draw the line at food and clothing—though for millions of people world-wide, adequate food and clothing are still beyond reach. To aspire to godliness with contentment, however, is great gain in any century.



**LIVING AS
CHILDREN OF
LIGHT:
Global Economic Justice
and the Trans-Pacific
Partnership**

*by Catherine Gordon, PC(USA)
Office of Public Witness, and
Alexa Smith, Joining Hands
(Presbyterian Hunger Program)*

As the plummeting temperatures and winter storms of the last few weeks have reminded us, we are in the season of winter, when the world is at its darkest. This is the time when Earth orbits the sun in its widest arc, shortening the day and lengthening the night. For many, it is a time of searching for light.

And yet as Christians, we know that we are also in the Season of Epiphany. No other time of the liturgical year is more focused on light. During Epiphany Christ is present,

born again among us, and Christ's light illuminates the world. It guides, inspires and transforms those who seek it out. That is because it is hard to go back to seeing the world the same way we used to once we have seen it alight.



When Christ's light shines in the darkness, the possibilities for a better earth are somehow more visible, for even the shadows are diluted by light. And that means that hunger, greed, and indifference are impossible to ignore any longer.

Most of you know the biblical stories. There are the "wise" men who ignore a powerful king to protect the life of a vulnerable baby boy. And then there is Christ, plunging into the depths of the Jordan and then rising up, showing us how the holy can wash over us and drench the world in peace and hope.

These stories remind us that in every age, the struggle for freedom from economic oppression, the struggle to shine light in the darkness, must be not simply a season but a way of life.

Our world is globalizing faster than most of us can grasp.

Oddly enough, in this context of change and uncertainty, we find ourselves blindly trusting an anonymous "marketplace" to make decisions about what is produced and what it will cost, who will work and who will not, who will have bread and who will have none – or far too little. But we who have seen Christ's light know that the ordinary machinations of the global economy should not impoverish people – from sweatshop workers in Asia to the many U.S. auto-workers whose lost jobs may well be gone abroad forever.

In this context, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is calling for light in very practical terms: asking for justice and transparency in the process of why and how the government negotiates trade agreements. While that may sound remote and complex, the implications of these agreements are very real for the lives of ordinary people, both here and abroad.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), to which President Obama alluded in his State of the Union Address, is one such example. It is the biggest free trade agreement ever put forward, encompassing 40 percent of the global economy, and its contents are a well-kept secret. For four years negotiations have been under way – with at least 600 corporate advisors having access to the text – yet, ordinary citizens and only a few Congressional representatives have seen the document, except for a few sections that have been leaked. Citizen debate has been virtually with rumors and leaks as our only source of information.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s global partners have asked us to join them in the holy work of economic reform tied directly to the TPP. Many members of the PC(USA) have responded to the call. More than 1,000 Presbyterians have sent letters to President Obama asking him to open up the TPP text and to create a more open process for trade negotiations. At least 3,000 have sent postcards asking members of the House of Representatives not to vote for fast track. To send a letter or postcard yourself, go to www.pcusa.org/trade.

To continue reading the article in Unbound – an interactive journal of Christian Social Justice: <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/living-as-children-of-light-global-economic-justice-and-the-trans-pacific-partnership>

THE ANYTIME GAME

This non-competitive game is designed to help people talk to each other in a fun and meaningful way. A great alternative to TV! Alternatives for Simple Living, 2004 (Please print on recycled paper.)

We can play The Anytime Game almost anywhere. Its compact design allows us to keep it in our purse, car glove compartment or coat pocket. It fits in most standard size letter envelopes. Share it with friends and relatives if you send cards or letters. Save it. Give it as a gift at Sunday School, church, reunions, parties and meetings.

TO PLAY

Seat all the players in a circle facing each other. Appoint one person as reader who holds the game. Choose someone to go first i.e. youngest, oldest, person with the birthday closest to the day's date, etc. That player chooses a number between 1 and 139. The reader reads aloud the appropriate topic. The player responds.

If a player chooses not to respond to that number, s/he chooses a number between 1 and 20. The reader reads the corresponding topic from the Alternative list. The reader checks off each number as it's read to avoid duplication, until all have been read. Play continues in a clockwise direction. There are no wrong answers. Set a certain time to play or play till the sun comes up!

After a player responds, other players may choose to respond briefly to the same topic or to the first player's comments. If so, the additional players each forfeit a turn.

Add your own questions at the end.

This game can also be used as a personal retreat by going to a quiet place and answering each question in order or at random.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Name one group of people you have a bias against, for example obese people or single parents. How are you tempted to treat them unfairly? How can you and a friend change that bias?
2. What does it mean to *Live Simply, That Others May Simply Live*?
3. Name three qualities or characteristics of a good leader.
4. If you could find the solution to one world problem, which problem would it be and why?
5. If you were able to do one thing to make the world a better place, what would you do or change?
6. What does your favorite retreat/quiet place look like? Why does it work for you?
7. What moment from your life should be sent to America's Funniest Home Videos?
8. One person always seems to push your buttons and you become grouchy. Ask the group to give two helpful hints to change your reactions.
9. I have too much stuff! I need to unclutter. But my things have so many memories attached. Help me! (Ask the person on your left for two ideas.)
10. My friend is having an operation next week. She has three children at home and is a single parent. How can I be of help? I really don't have time to care for the children.
11. What is one way you could make your daily life simpler? Who could help you?
12. If you were moving to a deserted island to live simply and could only take three things, what would you take and why?
13. If you travelled anywhere for a year with only a large back pack, what would be your essential clothing?
14. People are coming to your town and burning books! You are allowed to keep three books. Which ones would you keep and why?
15. Is there any job that you would not consider doing, even if the pay was very high? Why wouldn't you do this job?
16. What do you think is the best way to bring peace to our world? How can you be part of the process?
17. If you had enough money in the bank to eat, travel and live comfortably for the rest of your life, would you still work? If not, what would you do with your time?
18. If you had a magic wand that could cause people's lives to be simpler and you waved it over the Earth, what changes would it cause to happen?
19. Do you think having money to spend makes your life simpler or more complicated? Explain.
20. If you could give a million dollars away, what people or organizations would you decide to give it to and what would you want to happen as a result?
21. If you received \$100 unexpectedly, what would you do with it other than buying stuff?
22. If you received \$500 anonymously with a note, Do good with this, what would you do?
23. Some families have a regular family night. Family members take turns planning what to do and eat. What activity would you plan? What food would you prepare or select?

24. If you were having a family meal, gathering, or party, who would you choose to help you cook the meal or plan an activity? Why?
25. If I could read the mind of someone who doesn't talk much, what would I hope s/he would say about me?
26. What would happen if you had your vacation planned and your car broke down en route? How would you vacation instead?
27. What current family custom or tradition do you think will be strange to your great grandchildren?
28. What invention would you predict will be real 100 years from now?
29. Bob Hope died in 2003 at age 100. Can you name 10 things that were invented in his lifetime? Ask the group to name 10 more. Which are Earth friendly?
30. The Delaney sisters, two single African-Americans, lived to be 102 & 103. One was a dentist and one was a teacher. Name five world events that happened or holidays that started during the 20th century.
31. If your computer goes on the blink, how do you communicate with others?
32. If there was no electricity or phone for three days, how would that complicate your life and how would you handle the problems it created?
33. The TV breaks and you cannot afford to fix it right now. How would that change your family's activities?
34. If your family cancelled cable service, what would you do with the saved money?
35. You own a garden shop and you are near the end of the growing season. In seven days your plants will likely die. You have lots of stock left. What do you do?
36. You can give any one gift, at any cost, to any person. What do you give? To whom?
37. If you could give all children of the world a gift today, what would you give them?
38. You're having company over this evening and the electricity goes out at 6 p.m. What do you do all evening by candlelight?
39. The primary bread winner of the family next door lost his/her job. Name one way you could help them.
40. How do ads influence the way you shop? Ask the group, Do ads influence anyone else in a different way?
41. Have you ever seen an ad that stressed how a product was Earth-friendly? Is that an important selling point to you and your friends?
42. How do you determine how much you will spend on vacation? Eco-tourism means Earth-friendly travel. Does being Earthly-friendly help determine where you will spend your vacation or how you'll get there?
43. What one person from the past would you like to invite to a special meal at your home? What would you talk about?
44. Have you ever been a volunteer, helping someone in your community? What special moment have you experienced? If you haven't, what's holding you back?
45. If you were given the opportunity to volunteer outside of your country, where would you go and what would you do?
46. Name one skill or talent you could share with someone today.
47. Do you donate blood? If so, how does it make you feel? If not, what's holding you back?
48. What three words best describe your feelings about a specific friendship?
49. One part of living sustainably is to live within the Earth's carrying capacity, that is, not to pollute the air or the water faster than the Earth's systems can naturally clean them. For over two decades North Americans have been living beyond the Earth's carrying capacity. What do you think will eventually happen? Name one thing you can do to reverse this trend.

HOLIDAYS & RITES OF PASSAGE

50. If you could plan an ideal picnic outing, where would you go, who would you invite, what would you eat, and what would you do?
51. If you were to make a home video of your ideal birthday party, what would others see?
52. If you have any siblings, are you the oldest, youngest or in the middle? How do you think your birth order has affected your personality?

53. Name any place in the world (other than your home town) where you would like to spend your birthday. Why? What would you do there?
54. Name someone you haven't seen or spoken to for two years. What would happen if that person showed up on your doorstep for your birthday?
55. What is a meaningful or appropriate gift you could give for an anniversary? What gifts are inappropriate? Does being Earth-friendly help make a gift more appropriate?
56. How is your current celebration of your birthday different from how you celebrated as a child (or 10 or more years ago)? What do you hope will be different in a child's birthday party 20 years from now?
57. What is one tradition your family has now that you would never change?
58. Blended families have extra challenges at Christmas. Name one creative, real-life solution that people use to simplify the holiday's complexities?
59. How do you celebrate positively and include relatives or friends you don't always get along with?
60. If you had plenty of free time to make a gift for your best friend, what would you give?
61. What non-material gift do you want to receive?
62. Have you ever celebrated a holiday while in a different country? Tell about the experience.
63. If you ever celebrated a holiday with people from another ethnic background, how was it different than your usual celebration? How was it similar?
64. If you were to plan a celebration for a homeless family, what would it be like?
65. If you could make up your own holiday, what would it be called and how would you celebrate?
66. Name a holiday that you have heard about from a friend, in a book or on TV that you have never celebrated. How do others celebrate it?
67. Is there something special you and your friends can do next MLKing Jr Day (mid-January) besides getting the day off from work or school? What could you do to help bring about Dr. King's dream of people living and working together?
68. You are an admired newspaper writer. What does your column say on Martin Luther King Day?
69. Jan. 21st is National Hug Day. Do you know someone who's going through a rough time? Is any day a good day for hugging? Name another way you can support them.
70. February is Black Heritage Month. Why do you think it's important to know about famous black Americans? Have you seen or experienced racism? How did it feel? What did you do about it?
71. What are some ways that we treat people of other races unfairly? How can you and a friend change that?
72. February is Forgiveness Month. Think of someone you need to forgive. Don't say the name. Explain why it's important for YOU to forgive.
73. February is Friendship Month. Tell something funny or touching that someone has done for you to show friendship.
74. Mid-February is Random Acts of Kindness Week. Tell of an act of kindness done to you that has had a lasting impression on you.
75. Give one positive idea for celebrating Valentine's Day when you're single. Would you consider ignoring the day or figuring out a way to show others how much you love them?
76. Since St. Valentine was a prisoner, how could you celebrate Valentine's Day, February 14th, without roses, chocolate or cards?
77. One year on Valentine's Day, a busy husband gave his wife a gift of time. . . one hour each night he was available to spend time together. They went for walks, cooked dinner together, and told stories. How would you use a gift of time from another person?
78. Which US president is your favorite and why?
79. March 11th is Johnny Appleseed Day. Would you give up the comfort of your home to live alone, crossing the country to make the world a better place by planting trees? What would you do?
80. March 16th is Freedom of Information Day. Why is freedom of information important and how does it become threatened? How does fear impact our freedom?
81. March 22nd begins Central America Week. Do you know anyone from there? Have you traveled there? How can we help immigrants from Central America?
82. Tell a little of what you know about the history of St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Ask the person on your right to add to what you know, then the person on your left.

83. According to legend, St. Patrick led all the snakes out of Ireland. If he was still alive and came to America, what pest should he lead out and why?
84. Most people wear green on St. Patrick's Day. Name a situation where you wouldn't do what everyone else was doing.
85. St. Patrick worked for many years to bring Christianity to Ireland. Have you ever considered being a missionary? Why? Why not?
86. If you prepared an Easter basket for a person who had almost nothing, what would you put in it?
87. What would you put in an Easter basket for an obese person?
88. You have to work on Easter Sunday. How will you celebrate Easter?
89. April 1st is All Fools Day. What is the funniest joke you have ever played on someone or someone played on you? How did they react? How did you react?
90. National TV Turn-Off Week is the third week of April. What three activities could you do with your family if you turned off TV that week? What's stopping you?
91. Besides honoring Earth Day on April 22nd, what is one thing you or your family do to respect the Earth? What one new thing would you like to add to your Earth-friendly practices?
92. Arbor means tree. What is a way that you and some friends could celebrate Arbor Day in late April this year?
93. May is Physical Fitness month. With half the American population approaching obesity, what are you doing in your life to stay physically fit?
94. Be Kind to Animals Week is in early May. Name one way that farm animals are treated cruelly. What can you do to help change this?
95. May Day (May 1st) has several different holiday connections. How have you celebrated any of them?
96. Finish the sentence: Memorial Day is time to....
97. If you made a coupon to give your mother for Mother's Day, what would it say you are willing to do?
98. June is American River Month, including Clean Rivers Week. What can you do to help keep rivers from being polluted?
99. June is Zoo and Aquarium Month. Zoos are critical in preserving endangered species of animals and plants. How do you feel about animals being put in cages?
100. How is Race Unity Day in early June promoted in your town? If it's not, what ideas can you suggest?
101. Flag Day is June 14th. How do you feel when people display the flag inappropriately or wear the flag as clothing?
102. What one thing would you like to do differently next year for Father's Day?
103. You can't spend any money on a Mother's or Father's Day gift. Will you still give a gift? What will you give?
104. Your town suffered budget cuts this year and cannot afford a fireworks display, and fearing the possibility of fires, officials have placed an ordinance against personal fireworks. You get the chance to plan a new 4th of July celebration for the family. What would you plan that you do not ordinarily do? Why?
105. Why do you think some people around the world have chosen to celebrate Hiroshima Day, August 6th? Ask the group what they know of the story of Sadako and the one thousand paper cranes. Does anyone in the group know how to fold a peace crane?
106. If you could plan a holiday to celebrate peace, what would it be called and what activities would take place?
107. Why do we celebrate Labor Day? Why is it still important?
108. It's early September. Grandparents' Day is in three days. Even if you don't have a living grandparent, how can you celebrate the day?
109. In some blended families, kids have lots of grandparents. How can Grandparents' Day be a special celebration for everyone?
110. Sept. 21st is World Gratitude Day. To whom do you wish to say Thank You? Explain why.
111. If you could re-name Columbus' ships, what would you name them? Why?
112. Why might Columbus Day in mid-October be better known as Indigenous Persons Day?

113. October is Energy Month. What three things can you do to conserve energy in your home, school or business? Briefly explain one form of alternative energy.
114. October is storytelling month. Tell your favorite childhood story briefly.
115. Mid-October is Peace with Justice Week. Why do people often say that peace is not possible without justice? How can you be a peacemaker?
116. World Food Day is in mid-October. What might you, your church or community do to raise awareness of world hunger in addition to a CROP Walk?
117. October 19th is Cleaner Air Day. What can you do to help keep our air from being polluted?
118. Many people complain that Halloween, October 31st, is becoming a dangerous celebration for children. How would you plan a safe Halloween?
119. Halloween has religious origins. How does your worship community celebrate Halloween? What creative things might you do to make it a healthy holiday that focuses more on helping the needy and less on candy?
120. In Mexico at Halloween time, people have picnics at the gravesites of their relatives. How would you feel about having a picnic in a graveyard?
121. November 15th is America Recycles Day. What three products could you use that are made of recycled material?
122. November 20th is Use Less Stuff Day. What three things could you give away and not replace?
123. The Friday after Thanksgiving â€” the biggest sales day of the year â€” is Buy Nothing Day. What message does the act of staying out of stores give? Would you consider joining in? What could you do instead on that day? How might you promote Buy Nothing Day?
124. If you can't go to grandma's for Thanksgiving, where would you go and why?
125. If you can invite someone from another country for Thanksgiving, where would s/he come from and what do you think s/he would say about your celebration?
126. What one food or activity did you dislike at last year's Thanksgiving celebration? Imagine aloud what this year's celebration would be like if that was gone.
127. You can invite one person from history to your Thanksgiving gathering. Who will it be? Why? What would you do or talk about?
128. On Thanksgiving Day, a storm keeps you and your guests trapped in your home for five days. What would that be like? Would you still be friends afterwards?
129. Name three rights that Americans take for granted. Do you think any of them are at risk?
130. December 1st is AIDS Awareness Day. What would you do if a relative or friend of yours had AIDS?
131. What suggestions would you give to make Christmas shopping less stressful?
132. Handmade/homemade gifts and greetings can be very special. Name one thing you could make for an upcoming celebration.
133. You are the recipient of a special gift a book of coupons (including extras that allow you to fill in the blank). Do you prefer coupons for backrubs, dinners, hours of cleaning or chores or something else? Why? How would you use the extra coupons?
134. Other than Christmas, what is your favorite holiday and what is a special tradition you would like to pass on to the next generation? Why?
135. Is there a New Years resolution that you made in the past that you continue to keep? How did you do it?
136. Epiphany, January 6th, is celebrated at the end of the 12 days of Christmas with the coming of the Magi. Epiphany is called a season of light. What are some symbols of light that are special to you?
137. Some people give up something during the season of Lent. Others replace a wasteful habit with something helpful. How would you honor this season of repentance? Why?
138. Red is the color of the Christian Festival of Pentecost, 40 days after Easter. Red stands for the flames of the Holy Spirit that appeared on the heads of the disciples. What activities and/or food would you plan for a Pentecost Party?
139. Super Bowl Sunday seems to have become a national holiday. Name one good and one bad way that this event has changed over the past decades. Have you participated in the SOUPER-Bowl appeal for the hungry?

THE ALTERNATIVE LIST (See To Play above.)

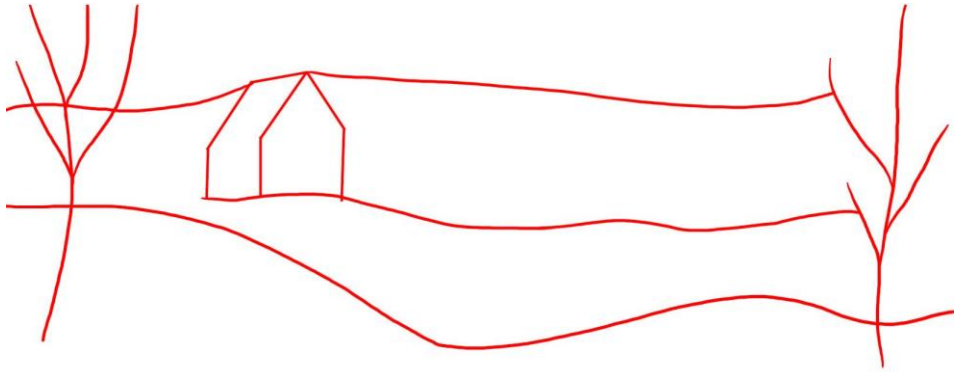
1. You are walking in a park and find a wallet with \$25 inside. What do you do with it?
2. If you could cure one disease, which would you choose and why?
3. Name a favorite song (hymn, rock, folk, etc.). Why does it have special meaning for you?
4. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would that be? Who would you ask to help you?
5. If a monster lived under your bed, what would it look like? How would you become a friend with it?
6. If you used one day of your vacation to help others, where would you volunteer?
7. What household responsibility do you have that you would gladly pass on to someone else?
8. What is one of your favorite movies? What message does it give?
9. What is one of your favorite books? What message does it give?
10. Tell a little known fact about yourself.
11. Tell of a past party that you especially enjoyed.
12. What is your favorite color? What does it tell people about you?
13. You can receive only one gift for your birthday. What will you ask for?
14. What is your favorite Thanksgiving food? Tell about memories or a story connected to it.
15. What would an alien bring to share for Thanksgiving dinner? Would you eat the new food?
16. What is your favorite season i.e. fall, winter, spring, summer? Why?
17. You want to keep with the tradition of green for St. Patrick's Day. What one green food would you eat?
18. You want to keep with the tradition of red for Valentine's Day. What one red food would you eat?
19. Name one red, one white and one blue food that you would eat or serve on July 4th. Together they need to make a reasonably healthy meal.
20. Tell a short Halloween story or memory that includes pumpkins.

OUR QUESTIONS...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



GRAINS OF TRUTH



**All the great things are simple,
and many can be expressed in a single word:
freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.**

Winston Churchill



**Human rights are
not only violated by
terrorism, repression
or assassination,
but also by unfair
economic structures
that create huge
inequalities.**

Pope Francis

ON-LINE RESOURCES

Go to www.pcusa.org/enough and click on these links to access resources for any of these programs.

On the web page you can also sign up for *Just Living--occasional email updates from Enough for Everyone regarding lifestyle integrity, green living & responsible consumerism at church and at home.*



[Presbyterian Coffee Project](#)

Fair Trade for your church: coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa, snacks and more.



[Eco-Palms](#)

Palm branches for Palm Sunday are sustainably harvested and ensure fair wages.



[Sweat-Free Ts](#)

T-shirts made in a sewing cooperative for your youth group, mission trip or event.



[Global Marketplace](#)

Your one-stop shop for Fair Trade items from producer groups related to PC(USA).



[Just Living series](#)

Find ideas and discussion starters for just living.



[Investing in Hope](#)

Invest church or personal funds in micro-finance projects that alleviate poverty.



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