

The Appalachian Coalfields Ministry seeks to meet physical and spiritual needs of people living in the Appalachian Area. Working with scores of ministry centers and small churches in five Appalachian states, we help mobilize volunteers and resources to meet needs. One of the greatest ministry needs in this area occurs around Christmastime.

The LRBA WMU will be collecting filled backpacks for the Appalachian Coalfields Ministry. A goal for each church can be 5 backpacks but please feel free to do any number that you can provide. Please have filled backpacks to the LRBA Office by November 2nd. Please call ahead: 910-893-4282

Each zippered school backpack should include:

- A) Small items of NEW items of warm clothing** such as winter hats, gloves, socks, scarves, etc.
- B) Small pop-top canned food** such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, vegetables, fruit (3-4 cans)
- C) At least 1-2 NEW, age appropriate non-breakable toy** (*no toy weapons, please!*) This can include small cars, balls, dolls, small stuffed animals, yo-yos, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, card games, Legos, etc. For oldest age group (15-17) substitute an appropriate item instead of a toy, such as, a flashlight, small thermos, light blanket, books, hunting and fishing magazines for the boys - jewelry, books, skin care products, hair accessories, etc. for girls.
- D) Hygiene items** including full sized containers of toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, and deoderant, as well as toothbrush, soap, washcloth, brush or comb. (*Please fit these items into a one gallon Ziploc bag so they do not leak out into the rest of the backpack*).
- E) Fresh, wrapped candy** (*no chocolate please, as it may melt; and no peanut products*)
- F) A children's Bible** or youth Bible (*no one version is required*) Please make sure that every pack has a Bible in it!
- G) A copy of "The Christmas Story" ****

***We ask that you enclose a copy of the Christmas story in each bag. You can download and print a .pdf copy of it here from our website (see link above). Printing Tip: If the second page prints out upsidedown, choose "short edge - top" binding option under your printing preferences. You may have to click "Print using system dialog" to get to your advanced preferences. Packing hint: The Bible and Christmas Story flyer seem to fit best in the front pocket of the backpack.*

Age Grouping and Labeling. Each backpack should be labeled boy or girl as well as the appropriate age. Age groupings for this year are **4-7, 8-10, 11-14, 15-17**. Due to labels falling off in previous years, we went to a ribbon system for labeling last year, and it proved to be very effective. Each backpack will have two 10 inch ribbons tied to them - one to indicate gender and one for age, as follows:

Gender:

Blue ribbon will indicate a boy's backpack.

Pink ribbon will indicate a girl's backpack.

Age:

Yellow ribbon will indicate that the backpack is for ages 4-7

Green ribbon for ages 8-10

Red ribbon for ages 11-14

White ribbon for ages 15-17.