

THE VALUE OF A GIFT

In a small town in a rural area of New York, a local elementary school was collecting socks to send to military personnel serving overseas. One little boy, who came to school every day in ill-fitting, mismatched hand-me-downs from his older brothers, brought in a carefully washed pair of used socks to donate, even though he was not wearing socks himself. He believed strongly in the cause. He also identified strongly with his school community, and wanted to participate. Some might have considered his contribution to be inappropriate. Fortunately, he had a teacher with sensitivity who valued the gift he brought.

Those of us who claim to be followers of Christ have a cause. Those of us who are members of local churches have a community with which to identify. We certainly have a teacher with the sensitivity to appreciate every sincere gift that we give, as illustrated by his telling of the story of the widow who gave her mite. Yet we often fail to contribute what we have.

It has often been said that a checkbook is a spiritual document, showing better than anything else what we value. Are you proud of the values revealed by your use of money?