

The following Notice of Motion came to the floor of the Annual Meeting of Saskatchewan Conference, May 24 - 27, 2001. It originated with the Saskatchewan Conference Global Concerns Committee of the Division of Mission.

**Title:** Operation Christmas Child

WHEREAS we believe that God calls us to live in solidarity with sisters and brothers throughout the world; and

WHEREAS The United Church of Canada seeks a relationship of partnership and companionship with church and people in the two thirds world; and

WHEREAS many of our churches and children are under pressure to participate in Operation Christmas Child, which sends shoe boxes of gifts to children in less developed countries; and

WHEREAS, since many cultures do not emphasize gift giving as a way of celebrating Christmas, this becomes a way of imposing our materialistic cultural values on others; and

WHEREAS many of the gifts sent are unsuitable for the recipients and their cultures (for example battery run toys, shampoos and toothpaste to cultures that don't use these products); and

WHEREAS we have eyewitness accounts of serious problems with distribution, of children being left out, and of frustration of local church leaders caught in the dilemma of handing out boxes, and

WHEREAS this type of project is more effective at making donors feel good than at meeting the needs of poor children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Saskatchewan Conference of The United Church of Canada encourage its members to look for alternatives to Operation Christmas Child, such as those suggested in the current Mission Study material, and through the support of overseas development through the Mission and Service Fund and the World Development and Relief Fund of the United Church, and other agencies such as UNICEF, Oxfam and Inter-Pares.

**CONFERENCE ACTION:** ADOPTED