

PWRDF 2008 Family Calendar
August Family Activity: The Best That We Have
<http://www.pwrdf.org/give/families-for-pwrdf/>



Take this, it's the best that I have

*"Mary took a pound of costly perfume...anointed Jesus' feet,
and wiped them with her hair." – from John 12:1-8*

In 1983, I volunteered in the refugee assistance program at St. Francis Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, Texas. One day Rodrigo approached me. "we are grateful for the beautiful things people have given us," he started. "But people always say, "Take this. We don't use it anymore." It feels like they are giving us their throw away things. that makes us feel bad. "In my country, I would say, "take this. It's the best that I have. Even if it was very simple, we would give it to someone because we thought it was good." "I see what you mean," I replied. "But here it hurts people's pride if they need to receive gifts. So they say, "I don't need it anymore" to try and make it easier for you to accept." But new questions were raised in my mind. Why do we give leftovers? I had happily donated to the program several t-shirts I never wore anyway. The next time there was a drive for clothes, I gave away one of my best blouses. Along with the "Ouch! I'm going to miss that blouse," I tried to feel the pride of saying, "Here. Take this. It's the best that I have." During our time in Central America I struggled with accepting gifts from our neighbours. The only chicken is killed for us. The best chair is offered. Precious time is spent answering our questions. Their example has become my challenge.

How can I learn to say joyfully, "Here. Take this. It is the best that I have."

--Kathy Ogle, Reflection #21

This piece is an excerpt from **Trek: venture into a world of enough**, a project of the Mennonite Central Committee This resource is available through the [MCC website store](#).