

# Gifts we really need this Christmas

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BY SLYVIA MWESIGYE

It is that time of the year again. As if on cue, Boney M and Philly Bongolely Lutaya are once more serenading us toward D-Day. Their songs float through radios, taxis, supermarkets, and even phones on loudspeaker, reminding us, whether we like it or not, that Christmas is near.

Downtown Kampala resembles an overpopulated beehive, buzzing with buyers hunting for bargains and sellers determined to make that quick buck before the year ends. The annual urban-to-rural migration has already begun, starting with children released for the holidays, with adults soon to follow once

leave days and transport fares align.

But beyond the travel, the food, and the noise, let us talk about an essential yet often stressful part of the season: Christmas gifts.

In the not-so-distant past, Christmas was a time when spending money on "essentials" like clothes and shoes came with zero guilt. New shoes on Christmas morning felt magical.

These days, however, such gifts feel more like survival necessities than celebrations. Even exotic destinations such as Dubai, America, or Europe, once the ultimate Christmas flex, have somehow lost their shine.

Inflation has a way of humbling everyone. So perhaps it's time we consider giving gifts of a different, more meaningful nature.

## Pre-Menopausal and Menopausal Women

Now, before I receive threatening phone calls or get unfriended, allow me to proceed with caution, and humor.

Almost everyone seems to have a Christmas horror story involving this category of women. Holiday stress combined with fluctuating hormones can sometimes produce behaviour that deserves its own documentary.

The result is often a household where everyone walks on eggshells, unsure which comment, look, or innocent question might trigger an emotional explosion.

A friend once shared that her mother-in-law insisted on doing laundry from

midday to 3 p.m. on Christmas Day, and no one was allowed to eat before she finished.

Plates sat empty, stomachs growled, and Christmas lunch became a moving target.

Needless to say, Christmas joy was postponed indefinitely.

So dear women in this category, we humbly ask for a gift of peace and understanding. Please remember that life—and Christmas—does not revolve around you alone.

Try, as much as possible, to manage the emotions. Let calm be your gift to the family so that we can all enjoy the season without fearfully guessing what might happen next.

## The Culinary Experts

We all love a good Christmas meal. No one is arguing against good food. However, timing matters. Serving lunch at two o'clock is perfectly acceptable. Serving it at five o'clock because you decided to experiment with Mexican cuisine for the very first time is simply unfair to everyone involved.

Dear master chefs, kindly give us the gift of simple, delicious meals served on time. Hunger does not enhance Christmas spirit; it destroys it.

## Our Beloved Transporters and Business People

To our transporters and business people, we truly appreciate the services you provide.

We understand how tempting it is

to maximize profits during a season where demand is high and emotions are running higher. However, as a special Christmas favour, please gift us fair prices and a little compassion.

Remember, we too are struggling financially. Christmas should not feel like a punishment for wanting to see family.

## Our Church Leaders

I know by saying this I risk spiritual exile, but someone has to say it.

Dear church leaders, we understand that Christmas is a big day and that you are, in many ways, the stars of the show. However, please try to act with reason. Many people now feel reluctant to attend church without money in their pockets because of the constant demand for giving during services.

Christians genuinely love to give to God because they acknowledge that everything they have comes from Him.

However, that does not mean they possess bottomless pockets. Men especially suffer quietly when guilt-tripped into pledging money they do not have. Ego is expensive, and embarrassment is painful.

So to all our spiritual fathers and caregivers, we humbly ask for a gift of well-thought-out, timely sermons. As for offerings, trust that everyone is preparing something for the Lord. And concerning auctions, please do not turn the service into a marketplace. This is a house of prayer. The work is the Lord's, and He will provide.

## BITTER

According to [Faithgatway.com](http://Faithgatway.com), the reason for giving at Christmas is an important lesson not only for adults but also for children. People give gifts at Christmas for many reasons. One of the main reasons we have the custom of giving and receiving presents at Christmas, is to remind us of the presents given to Jesus by the Wise Men: Frankincense, Gold and Myrrh. Frankincense was a perfume used in Jewish worship and, as a gift, it showed that people would worship Jesus. Other people who love and follow Jesus give gifts to remember the true "Gift" – Jesus.

The tradition of giving gifts to children is associated with St Nicholas, who became the prototype of Santa Claus.  
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