

Candy Cane Seeds

*I once knew a gardener who knew how to grow
Bright tasty candies, right out of the snow
I asked him to share his secret with me
And this is what he replied quite readily
To garden in winter is difficult you see
It takes lots of care and a very special seed
I'll give you a couple to grow your own treats
And you'll soon reap a harvest
Of candy cane treats.*

Did you know; the first candy cane was created in 1670 in Germany? The bend was made to resemble the shape of a shepherd's crook. The three small stripes represent the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed. The large red stripe is for the blood shed on the Cross for our redemption and white is representative of the purity and sinless nature of Jesus.

*Join us in prayer and celebration as we continue to represent the joy of Christ and sharing his love around the world. From all of us at Hope Seeds,
MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

✳ **Prayer and Praise for the work in Burkina Faso!** Last Christmas, we reported the beginning of a partnership with missionaries in Burkina Faso (who must remain anonymous) as they conducted training sessions and shared the Gospel through the Message of Hope and seed ministry. Even though they had great health concerns and were under daily threats from Jihadists, these missionaries pressed forward to bring the transformational work of Christ to many. From their sacrifices, God has brought a great harvest of food for the body and souls for His kingdom! Here is their testimony: *“They live in a community of Burkina Faso that is very poor where for example many don't have food to celebrate Christmas. The seeds are a life saver since they allow them to create gardens and expand the food availability for their families as well as help to fight malnutrition and hunger. Many will be able to sell some of the produce locally...They are all very happy to receive the seeds, very thankful and are making good use of them. All of them are hard working (men, women, and kids) they just needed some help with these high quality seeds.”*



☀️ **Prayer and Praise for our volunteers who continue to work diligently, sending seeds of Hope! We are so thankful for so many families, churches, and individuals that have come together during this time to rise to the challenge of feeding a hungry world and sharing Christ in a tangible way. Well done and thank you!!!!**



☀️ **Prayer and Praise for the continued outreach to Haiti with MFI and Agape Flights! Hope Seeds began an outreach to over 50 mission organizations in Haiti this fall in response to the growing need and lack of food, mainly due to Covid-19 and the many disruptions this has caused in the food chain. Our goal is to reach out to 35,000 families before the planting season begins early next year to avoid as much hunger as possible. Since this outreach began in October we have sent 23,886 family packs (roughly 240,000 seed packets) through MFI and Agape Flights to Haiti and the D.R. We have already received many expressions of gratitude from those working on the ground on behalf of the people blessed by these gifts of seed who send their thanks to all of you who support Hope Seeds.**

☀️ **Prayer and Praise for new opportunities in The Bahamas! Hope Seeds, Convoy for Hope, and Hope Fleet, which represents a lot of Hope, will be sailing into action in a joint outreach to the Bahamas starting in February of 2021. This outreach is in response to Hurricane Dorian to help struggling families living in Grand Bahama, Nassau, and Abaco Islands to recover and grow much needed food for their families. Working with the Christian Counsel of Churches in the Bahamas, over 600 families have been identified to receive a bucket consisting of an irrigation kit, seed starting trays, seeds, tools, gardening manual, The Message of Hope, and training - everything needed to start a backyard garden and grow in their faith in Christ.**

☀️ **Prayer and Praise for those who gave memorials and honorariums. Look for these in our spring newsletter and the announcement of a new work in Uganda with our partners in that country.**

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

What's that? A QCD is a way of giving to a charity that all folks over 70 1/2 should know about. After an IRA holder reaches 70 1/2 the IRS requires a minimum distribution (RMD) be made from the IRA account. Receiving this required withdrawal into your personal bank account immediately makes it subject to IRS taxes. If it is instead transferred directly from the IRA account to a qualified charity it becomes a QCD and it will not appear as income in your tax return. You pay no taxes on the distribution and you benefit your charity with this donation. Check it out with your tax consultant and your financial advisor. For those over 70 1/2 this can be the best way of giving, especially with the new tax laws. A QCD must be completed by 31 Dec 2020 for the current tax year!



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