

## Mountains of Trash

According to "National Wildlife," each week people in the United States generate 4 million tons of trash. During the holiday season, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we throw out even more -- 5 million tons per week -- and a high percentage of that trash is simply wasteful.

For example, if each person in America throws away just one bite of Thanksgiving turkey, that comes out to 8.1 million pounds of edible turkey in the trash can. If each person throws away one tablespoon of stuffing, 16.1 million pounds of edible stuffing is wasted.

And then, of course, there is all that wrapping paper. The average U.S. consumer gift-wraps 20 packages during the holidays. If each person wrapped just three of those packages with recycled wrap, the amount of paper saved would cover 45,000 football fields.

New Year celebrations add to the trash heap. After the Times Square New Year's Eve party, for example, the New York sanitation department cleans up 42 tons of extra garbage.

Environmentalists are not the only ones bothered by the waste of valuable resources. God, too, hates waste. He doesn't want to see valuable resources He bestows on individuals -- such as spiritual gifts, time, money, ability and vitality -- lost and unused.

I am pleased to see, as I travel in the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles, and hear about the work of Life Care at Home, that associates are surrendering their lives in good stewardship to the mission of serving God's children. Let us be ever vigilant about not wasting those precious talents He has given to us.

--Beecher Hunter