

# Commerce church providing hot Christmas meal for needy

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[First Baptist Church in Commerce](#) plans to provide a hot meal and hope for 700 needy people this Christmas.

Each family that attends the Dec. 23 event will receive dinner and a [Texas Hope 2010](#) evangelistic compact disc containing Scripture, gospel presentations and links to the New Testament in more than 400 languages. The effort is part of the congregation's participation in Texas Hope 2010, an initiative to share the gospel with every Texan by Easter 2010.

The dinner—the first of its kind at the church—will be the congregation's latest effort to help people in need this Christmas season. The church also is involved in the Angel Tree program as well as CASA, both of which enable people to purchase Christmas gifts for children.

"We're extending ourselves to our community," Pastor Johnnie Henderson said.

"We feel like this is a way of saying to the Lord, 'We're going to give back what you've blessed us with.'"

Henderson hopes the meal will let people know Christians care about them and want to help where they can. Through conversations, church members will share about the birth of Christ.

"Each of our people will share with them what the meaning of Christmas is for their family," he said.

