
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Every evening when I get home and check my mailbox, I find advertisements for stuff, and more offers for credit cards. Offers for stuff stuff stuff. Every day I sit down, before I read my paper I go through all those ads and catalogs offering stuff stuff stuff. And it occurred to me, so often our culture defines us by what we have.

Everything in those advertising pieces looks really nice, but I don't see that I have a need for any more. I have a whole closet full of blouses (with no holes in them) and sweaters I never wear. I really need to go through the closet and donate things to someone who can use them.

When somebody asks what I want for Christmas, I don't know what to tell them. I don't want any more stuff. I want what money cannot buy. LSU national championship, for example; time to reconnect with friends; time to reflect on our blessings and challenges. I would like an easy year with the Legislature.

I want more knowledge, wisdom and patience (and I want it NOW!), and I want to see every employee of OJJ engaged in positively affecting our youth. I want to see anger turned into acceptance and frustration turned into positive energy. I want to see love, acceptance, kindness and understanding - in family, friends, colleagues and in the world.

Recent news stories talk about gift alternatives – remembering people without something wrapped in a bow. Part with a meaningful, prized possession – pass it on to someone special to you. Wrap up tickets for a few hours of help for someone who needs assistance with a home project or with housekeeping. Bring copies of the recipe along with the special dish you bring to holiday gatherings. When someone can't travel for the holiday, send their favorite recipes and a box of ingredients. Call someone you haven't spoken with in a while. Donate money to a charity or cause in your friends' names and ask them to do the same for you. Get together with family and friends and volunteer to serve in a homeless shelter.

I want to remember the real meaning of Christmas and less about the part where we give each other stuff.

So deck the halls and let the jingle bells ring! And resist the urge to buy more stuff. When is enough stuff enough stuff? That is the question that everyone wants Tiger Woods to answer! So how many endorsements does he really need?

If there was ever a group that gives to others, it's OJJ staff. As always, thanks for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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