Q. 349: My work area is mostly of Christians but my manager is a Muslim. What he does is he gives gifts to everyone on Christmas including me. I told him not to but his argument was that to take it and consider it as an yearly gift, not as a Christmas gift. But still the only reason he is actually giving gifts is because it s Christmas, no gifts are exchanged on eid and i dont want to seem rude so i give him a gift back too. So can we accept?and exchange gifts or should I wisely refuse to take it.

Ans.: It is not permissible to celebrate or take part in any of the festivals of the non-Muslims. However, it is permissible to accept their gifts on such days as long as they are not impure or something prohibited by Shariah.

Fatawa Mahmoodiyah Vol.18 Pg.174/5 (Jami?ah Farooqiyah)
Aapke masail aur Unka Hal Vol.1 Pg.67 (Maktabah Bayyinat)

In the context of the abovementioned, it will be permissible to accept the gift from your boss, especially when he is a Muslim and he is saying that it is a yearly gift.

It will also be permissible for you to give a gift back to him, as long as you do not make intention of celebrating Christmas, but just give it to keep the relationship.

However, you should also explain to your boss that if he is giving these gifts to celebrate Christmas or to honour the Christians, it will be regarded as a grave sin.

Allah knows Best

Darul Iftaa,Madressa In'aamiyah