



# Better Moms Make A Better World

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## To Encourage Your Heart

### O Come "Aul" Ye Faithful

"How do you spell \_\_\_\_\_, Mom?"

"Stretch it out and tell me the sounds you hear," is my predictable response to my elementary scholars.

Predictably, their scholarly responses are rolled eyes followed by some sound/letter guesses. I guess you could say that we're a predictable bunch!

Recently, I was reading in Acts 22 where Saul, a man that predictably gave his "aul" to persecute Christians, encountered the living Jesus. That moment changed "aul" of Saul. Saul remained predictable but went from Christian persecutor to Christian promoter. He kept his "aul" and changed his name from Saul to Paul. Paul gave his "aul" to Jesus.

Many past holidays, I've felt s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d by unrealistic expectations and lofty visions of what Christmas needs to look like. I know it's a stretch to spell a-l-l, "aul", but no more than thinking Christmas is about Santa, gifts and Frosty. Now that I know that Jesus was not just born, but lives today, changes how I want to honor the day that we celebrate as His birthday.

This Christmas season, I want to give God my "aul". There are so many good intentioned distracters out there: over gifting my children and friends, finding the perfect recipes, and making my home look like the Better Homes and Gardens cover, just to name a few. Sure, the Fink home will be decorated and have some gifts in it, but this year we're being more intentional about doing as the song lyrics say, "O come, let us adore Him". Jesus. The One that changed the world forever. The One that changed my life forever.

It's interesting that for the three days that followed Saul's meeting with Jesus, Saul was physically blind. He lost vision only to gain it back.

With cultural pressures and media infiltrations requesting me to give my "aul" to materialism, I don't want to lose vision. I want to pause, refocus with awe-struck worship and remember the little baby in a manger that wasn't surrounded by pre-lit LED Christmas lights, overflowing stockings and an eight course meal.

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.**

My fellow Mommas, can we sing *O Come Aul Ye Faithful* and make God, not materialism, the center of our focus? Will you, like Paul, give your "aul" to Jesus? -by Steph Fink

For more about Steph, please visit her web site at: [www.encouragedinheart.org](http://www.encouragedinheart.org)



## Guess The Christmas Song

Example: Bleached Yule =  
White Christmas

1. Boulder of the Tinkling Metal Spheres
  2. Castaneous-colored Seed Vesicated in a Conflagration
  3. Singular Yearning for the Twin Anterior Incisors
  4. Righteous Darkness
  5. Arrival Time: 2400 hrs -  
Weather: Cloudless
  6. Loyal Followers Advance
  7. Far Off in a Feeder
  8. Array the Corridor
  9. Bantam Male Percussionist
  10. Monarchical Triad
  11. Nocturnal Noiselessness
  12. Jehovah Deactivate Blithe Chevaliers
  13. Red Man En Route to Borough
  14. Frozen Precipitation Commence
  15. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle
  16. The Quadruped with the Vermilion Proboscis
  17. Query Regarding Identity of Descendant
  18. Delight for this Planet
  19. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings
  20. The Dozen Festive 24 Hour Intervals
- (answers below)



### ?? Question of the Month ??

**Answers from last month's question: What have been the most important aspects of your Christmas celebrations over the years?**

**Spiritual:** read the birth of Jesus story from family bible, Christmas Eve church service, reflect on true meaning of Christmas, Advent wreath, pray for folks they receive Christmas cards from, celebrate what God has done for us, Advent chocolate calendars, Advent spiral to share w/kids and friends, act out Christmas story with Little People stable and nativity scene, sing at candlelight service with Mom

**Gifts:** open 1 present on Christmas Eve, giving to others not in our family, give thoughtful and surprising gifts

**Family:** get together and focus on each other

**Decorating:** the house and tree while singing Christmas carols

**Activities:** baking cookies, see the National Christmas Tree, drive around and look at lights on Christmas Eve

**Traditions:** leave cookies for Santa, stay in pjs all day on Christmas, have dishes only served on Christmas, half birthdays, ornament exchange



### Christmas Eve Services at Christian Fellowship Church



Join us for a candlelight service including Communion. There will be a brief message, a LIVE nativity, and a special gift for the children. Childcare for children age 3 and under is available at BOTH services. Saturday, December 24, 2011 at 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm



### Ladies Night Out



MOMSnexT Christmas Gathering - Monday, December 19, 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Montte Christiansen's home: 21155 Mayapple Place, Sterling, VA 20164  
Dessert, tea and coffee.



### Save the Date



MOMSnexT BUNCO night – Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>  
Nancy Gordon's home. Fun for all, no experience required!

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44075 Pipeline Plaza Suite 305  
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Tel: (703) 723-6388  
Fax: (703) 723-6399  
E-mail: Kenneth@KennethLiuCPA.com  
Website: kennethliucpa.com

Christmas song answers: 1. Jingle Bell Rock 2. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire 3. All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth 4. O Holy Night 5. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear 6. O Come, All Ye Faithful 7. Away in a Manger 8. Deck the Hall 9. Little Drummer Boy 10. We Three Kings 11. Silent Night 12. God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen 13. Santa Claus is Coming to Town 14. Let it Snow 15. Go, Tell It on the Mountain 16. Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer 17. What Child is This? 18. Joy to the World 19. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 20. The Twelve Days of Christmas