



Better Moms Make A Better World

To Encourage Your Heart

The To Don't List

I am a "To Do" list-making lunatic. I'm not kidding. I've been known to make lists of the lists that I've wanted to write up. While my list-making "skill set" proved valuable to my family as we moved this past year, it has been equally unhelpful in distracting me from the real meaning of Christmas. If not on guard, I can checklist the holidays like it's a race to "get through" or, I can intentionally celebrate Christmas as God intended. So with an honest heart, I drafted an entirely new list, the "To Don't List".

- * Facebook my friend - call instead!
- * Wrap a gift with a rushed-negative heart!
- * Eat a Christmas cookie alone, they're always sweeter with a friend!
- * Fret over the Christmas letter, family picture and change of address cards. This year I made a joint Christmas greeting/change of address postcard.
- * Be rude to the people that are in the Christmas postcard picture while addressing them to go out!
- * Allow the person that stole my parking spot (the blinker told you it was mine!) to steal my joy. No, I'll confuse em'...I'll smile and wave like we're old friends (cause we would be if you'd stop stealing my spot!).
- * Buy anything that I don't have enough money to.
- * Forget the best present ever! No, not the Atari, Cabbage Patch Kid, leg warmers or my Kodak disc camera when I was a child. Jesus' birth, the life that gave me new life, hope and freedom to love the person who stole my parking spot!

This Christmas season, will you draft a new list...a "To Don't" list, so your "To Do" lists don't cram out the real reason for the season?

- By Steph Fink

For more about Steph, please visit her web site at: www.encouragedinheart.org

Our children respond to patterns of love rather than individual moments. If we have an imperfect moment with our children, we only need apologize and continue to love them.

-Carol Kuykendall



"There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one."

- Jill Churchill



JESUS IS THE REASON

When I was young
And too little to know
I thought "Merry Christmas"
Meant presents and snow
Just a big tree with tinsel and
lights all aglow!

I didn't understand nor
Do I think that I cared
The "true" message of Christmas
Was the Love that God shared!

I'd heard about the King who was
born in a manger
But what's the fuss about some
baby who to me was a stranger?
It wasn't until I had children of my
own
That my "heart-strings" were
tugged and the void became
known

I learned the most important thing
about life is to love
And that Jesus, my Savior, was
sent from above
His life an example of true love
and devotion
The lights, sounds and hustle ...
nothing more than commotion

His life pure and precious freely
given for me
Was so hard to believe yet so
simple to see
Oh, I still sing and buy gifts to
thank those I love
But I'll never forget God's great
gift from above

So make no mistake
of this "Truth" I partake
His birth is the reason
to bring Joy to this season!

by Marilyn Shackelford

Family Life Marriage Conference

Looking for that perfect gift for you and your husband this Christmas? Treat yourselves to a "Weekend to Remember."

Life has a way of overwhelming a marriage. Jobs, kids, activities, errands. Before you know it, checking your e-mail is more important than carving out a date night. FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember® marriage getaway is a chance to make a change. It's a time to rediscover each other and find more intimacy in your life together.

Conferences are being held in this area in February and March. Check out the Family Life web site for more information.

http://www.familylife.com/site/c.dnJHKLNnFoG/b.5956773/k.A0FE/Find_Your_Getaway.htm#search

Book for Sale!

Our speakers this month, Jack and Kathy Stockman, will have a beautiful book (and more) for sale at our meeting this month. *The Advent Book* is designed to be a family heirloom and the centerpiece of an annual Christmas worship tradition. The large full-color book with beautiful illustrations features 25 unique doors, each opening to reveal a picture and a segment of the Christmas story. Each book is \$40. For more information visit their web sites: www.adventbook.com and www.Celebrations-and-Traditions.com

Gracias, Danke, Merci, Grazie!

This month, two of our door prizes were generously donated by ladies in the group with home based businesses. Rebecca Candlichio donated goodies from Pampered Chef and Amber Harris donated items from Mary Kay. To learn more about these products or to place an order, please see Rebecca's web site at: www.pamperedchef.biz/beccaskitchen or contact Amber at: asc2705@yahoo.com or (859) 333-1914

Door Prizes...

have been purchased from www.Gofishguys.com. Their theme is: "Great music for kids that won't drive their parents bonkers!"



Thank you to our sponsors!

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