

Is Christmas time just one big rush + sigh. Is it a time of frenzied house cleaning, <sup>and</sup> baking. Is it a time of long shopping trips when little is accomplished but much is spent - time as well as money. ~~Hope~~ I notice smiles on your face - True we all experience some of these things but I hope Christmas is more + means more than this - In our homes we should be ~~to~~ striving to teach our ~~little~~ children ~~the~~ the real meaning of Xmas.

We teach our children that Xmas commemorates the birth of our savior Jesus + that it means a great deal more than just the visit of old Saint Nick. How should we as Father Day Santa get ready for Christmas? ~~It means getting ready to show~~ ~~happiness.~~ It is no accident that at this time of the year sympathy + goodwill fill the hearts of + ~~hundreds of millions.~~ ~~This~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~manifestation~~ of this is made known thru the teachings of Jesus that God as love.

True, Xmas is for the children but whether they grow up with only thoughts of Santa + the material things of Xmas or whether they grow up with good experiences + thoughts is up to us as parents - Xmas is the busiest time of the year + should be the happiest + There are lots of activities + the children should be a part of it. We should encourage them to sing + to listen to the beautiful Xmas music. The hymns that tell such lovely stories of Christ's birth. Their should be lots of Xmas music. We should make them together, ornaments

for the tree, decorations for the home + gifts for  
their friends + relatives, How well we know that  
the gift without the giver is bare. How often  
we've heard someone say - I just love this apron  
my mother made for me. It looks just like her - all  
pink + white + neat as a pin, a little sweet  
self made, exactly to fit the one person to  
whom it is given, is made with love + care +  
taken on the love + personality of the giver. How  
proud we are of the gifts we make, for with  
them go our love + thought + a very real  
part of us. We should encourage our children  
to make their gifts - Her <sup>just</sup> towels for ~~the table~~  
painted dishes for walls - + so many other things  
for gifts are valued most which reveal a  
part of us, our loving care, our thoughtfulness.  
Then we should teach our children of the  
giving of ourselves. The spirit of Xmas means looking  
around to see what need to be done -