

Training for Triumph E-Newsletter

Issue 023

Holiday 2008

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Donna Reish**

*Email Jonathan at trainingfortrumphhomeschool@mchsi.com if you wish to be taken off this mailing list—or to add a friend. Thanks!

Section I: Training for Triumph (TFT) Events and Announcements

1. Hello: Note From Donna

Dear Fellow Heart Trainers,

Welcome to another edition of the TFT E Newsletter! I had big plans for this newsletter—my list was a mile long of things I wanted to write, put at my blog, or include in this mailing, but time has slipped away from me, so I will have to include some of those things in upcoming issues.

We had a wedding last month! And it wasn't just any old wedding—it was our daughter! Our second daughter (Cami, third child, age 20) got married to a wonderful, godly, character-filled young man named Joseph Gross. It took an enormous amount of time to get ready. When Joshua got married four years ago, Lisa (our daughter-in-law) and her mom did all the work for the wedding preparations. (Thanks, Lisa and Kathy! Now I understand why you were constantly working! J) We only spent time with Joshua and Lisa some preparing for the wedding and Joshua tons preparing for the *marriage*. This time we were preparing for a marriage *and* a wedding (parents of bride!)—and it was absolutely consuming. However, I do not regret a moment we have spent doing so. (See an upcoming issue for our article entitled “Wedding Preparations...Marriage Preparations.”)

While we have gotten a lot more sleep recently without Cami and Joseph on the foot of our bed until midnight many nights, we do miss them very much. (It seemed like Joseph practically lived with us during the last month or two since he was here every waking moment they were not working! J) As we got closer to the wedding (and marriage!), I often longed for normal—not Monday evening marriage class together, Tuesday evening dress fittings, and Wednesday evening wedding planning week in and week out---and while I do LOVE normal, it is worth it to spend every moment needed with our kids while they are at home. (And while Cami would go through the house saying, “Fourteen days until I will be married!” The boys would shout, “Fourteen days until we get Mom and Dad back!” J)

Parenting with an emphasis on character and heart training is not easy! Some times the needs are deep and vast—and more time is needed. Other times, things seem to run along without so many needs. Regardless of the time and emotional/spiritual energy needed, I am so thankful that our early mentors taught us to do whatever it takes to train our children's hearts well.

And, of course, once again, I am in love with being in love. Truly, one of the highlights of my parenting thus far has been seeing our two children (so far!) in love with the one they are marrying. It is a dream come true to see Joshua and Cami both find mates that they love so fully and selflessly—and that love them the same way. I'm just crazy about love! J

Our fall classes have been incredible. Such an awesome semester of teaching and growing with our students. The kids are so great—they make me smile and laugh every week. Seeing students learn to write well, speak well, and think well is truly a highlight of a TFT teacher's days! Check out our website for second semester cottage class offerings, as well as our new correspondence writing program starting in January.

Don't lose sight of your children's hearts as you prepare for Christmas (see this newsletter's “Holiday Musings”). Each season has its own demands and pulls that will take us far, far away from the hearts of those we love if we allow it to. Keep Christ in Christmas—and hold those hearts during Christmas too!

Love,
Donna

P.S. Don't miss the **upcoming article** ("Only by Comparison") that Ray and I have had "percolating" all summer and fall. (Can you even use that analogy anymore—I mean, do people really percolate coffee nowadays or does it just always drip?) And—don't miss the **unveiling of the "\$100 Pay-It-Forward Award"**—that was given after twelve years of searching for a recipient. Both of these will be in next month's newsletter, as well as in Donna's blog. (Didn't make it this month since we had too much holiday info; watch for it in January!)

P.S.S. Watch the upcoming issue of *The Old Schoolhouse* for our advertisement and *freebie* offer.

2. The TFT-Mobile Coming to a Location Near You?

TFT has writing teachers, speech and debate teachers, and more! Take a look at our class list and description at our website (www.tfths.com/docs/classdescription.pdf) If you live within a couple of hours of Fort Wayne, Indiana and would like to see about a TFT teacher coming to teach in your co-op or small group, contact Ray at 260-597-7415. We might have a day available the second semester of this school year and have some available in the fall of '09 (at this time).

3. Upcoming Articles and Newsletters

We have many articles and helps coming your way in 2009! First of all, check out the list of articles and features we are planning for upcoming issues below. Subscribe, if you are not already—or tell friends about us, so they can get more heart-training homeschool help in the new year. (How about that alliteration? J) Secondly, we are writing some special "Character" issues of our newsletter. These will go out to our regular mailing list and will focus on various character qualities. Thirdly, we are working diligently to get our articles and past newsletters on our website and my blog in an organized fashion. Periodically check the site for new uplinks for these www.tfths.com/articles.php

Upcoming Articles

"Only By Comparison"—a look at the low expectations we set for ourselves in parenting when we compare our parenting to others' (next issue!)

"Preparing for a Wedding, I Mean, a Marriage"—the importance of taking the time and emotional/spiritual energy required to prepare our young people to have phenomenal marriages! J

"SAT Preparations"—our SAT stories combined with lengthy helps for the verbal portions of the SAT

"Parenting Babies and Toddlers With a Character-Based, Long-Term Training Approach"—finding a balance between demand baby rearing and scheduling; parenting babies and toddlers with a look into the future at their character and heart training

"Writing Stages"—a look at teaching writing at the various stages and readiness levels

"The Power of Mentoring: What We Learned From Those Who Invested in Our Lives"—a look at the influence mentoring had on our lives and the many valuable lessons we learned from people who took the time to shape our Christian lives

"The Happy Homeschooler"—what makes us happy, and how to use "happiness indicators" to our advantage to raise children who are content in a life of service for Christ

“The Character of Courtship”—how to train our children to live a life of character in the areas of courtship and relationships

“The Importance of One-on-One Time”—things happen in hearts when a child spends one-on-one time with Mom or Dad; some insights from our experiences

“Smart Discipline, Heart Discipline”—why parents dedicated to the SMART DISCIPLINE approach to character training are having success—and how to apply this to homeschooling and heart training

Other Features

“Cooking for Two Families”—recipes, tips, and advice on blessing another family in their times of need

“Money-Saving Kitchen Tips”—from using less meat to making it from scratch to eating less expensive foods

“The Humble Potato”—yummy potato dishes that will save your family money

“Stews and Soups”—the heart of a winter kitchen

“Christmas Morning Breads and Rolls”—new and old faves

“Editor Duty for Parents”—watch out for this one—we’ll test your ability to “edit given passages” J

“Heart Training Tip of the Month”—a new feature coming sometime in 09!

“Recipe Link That Makes Re-Sizing Recipes a Breeze”—altering recipes for decreasing family size...sniff sniff...

“Using Kraft’s ‘Ingredients on Hand’ Link”—find quick, easy meal ideas for the ingredients you have on hand right now!

“Cheeseballs and Spreads”—a dozen favorite recipes, freezing cheese based goodies, and more

“Dance Snacks”—a file of all of our favorite goodies to take to the ballroom dance—or anyplace you need an awesome appetizer!

“Writing Tip of the Month”—another new feature coming in 09!

“Family Fondue Night”—complete with pictures; family fun nights home important in family bonding and unity

“Family ‘Flat-Top Grill’ Night”—less expensive alternative to one of Cami’s favorites; complete with pictures!

“Creating Meaningful Family Nights”—at home and away—make family nights more than movie nights!

“Wedding Recipes”—feed a bunch with some of our dessert reception recipes

“The Shower Brunch”—faithful friends continue to bless us with shower brunches; get their “secret recipes” J

And much more!

4. Second Semester Classes in Ossian and Fort Wayne (Grabill) Areas

Our class schedules and registration forms are posted at our site, and we still have room in some of the classes! We are heading to north-east Fort Wayne to the little town of Grabill (less than twenty minutes from Dupont Area, northern Fort Wayne, and Auburn) during the second semester. Joshua will be teaching US History, Literary Analysis, and Elementary/Middle School Speech; I will be teaching writing galore! Registration forms for Grabill are found at www.tfths.com/docs/grabillregistration.pdf

Here at home, Donna will continue to teach a few CQLA classes (mostly full; call for availability) and Joshua and Ray will teach US History, Literary Analysis, Elementary/Middle School Speech; SAT Math Prep; and more. We might add a high school sign language class to our Craigville (Ossian area) line up, so call if you are interested (260-597-7415). Check at our class list at www.tfths.com/docs/ossiancraigvilleregistration.pdf

5. Correspondence Writing Classes Available in January 2009

We are launching our new correspondence writing program in January of 2009. These correspondence classes will be based on our composition-only books entitled *Meaningful Composition*. (See samples of three of these at www.tfths.com/samples.php and check back periodically for addition of new samples of other levels.) The classes will be thirteen weeks in length and will include a cassette or cd explaining the lessons, followed by weekly critiquing on cassette and on the student's essay/report. Watch our website throughout this month for registration forms for this at www.tfths.com/corclass.php

Section II: Heart Training—This and That

1. Drama Camp With the Academy of Arts

Once again, I have to sing the praises of the Academy of Arts. This fall, all four of our “school aged” kids participated with the Fort Wayne Area Homeschoolers’ fall drama, taught and overseen by this tremendous ministry out of Greenville (Taylors), South Carolina. If your homeschool group is looking for a way to teach children about drama ministry, performance, public speaking, behind the scenes drama work, character, Bible, godly living, and more, the Academy of Arts is the answer. In a nutshell, A of A brings six to ten young people (students in their college program) to your location and holds a drama camp (or seminar) for one week---half days for elementary students and full day for junior high/high school kids. The students learn all about drama—and prepare a full length drama that they perform that very weekend for parents and people of the community. The founder of the A of A, Nicky Chavers, has been serving God through preaching, teaching, drama, and much more for over thirty years. The staff is incredibly godly—and awesome examples for our young people. Contact them to set up a drama seminar in your area www.theacademyofarts.org/dramaseminars.html Or check out the cute pictures of our area students at www.fwahsdrama.org/html/slideshow.html J (Note: This is the same drama ministry that Kara (fourth child, age 18, senior in high school) traveled with the last two summers performing *Sanctity of Life* all over Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois. www.theacademyofarts.org/summerdramateams.html

2. All for One Character Plays for Public School Children

We have another unique drama ministry opportunity in our area—one that our older children participated in ten years ago with another group. A Christian drama ministry, all for One (afO), has taken on the challenge of gathering and training homeschooled young people to perform character-based dramas in public and private schools. Joshua and Kayla did a very similar program ten years ago with the Advanced Training Institute.

(Theirs was called Character First!) Now Jonathan (16, fifth child) is involved in the same type of ministry with a different group. Jonathan, along with a dozen other homeschooled young people, is performing two dramas, *Character Counts* (a play about following your conscience to not lie, steal, etc.) and *Queen Bee* (a play about not bullying and showing kindness) in schools in the Fort Wayne area. They have been preparing all fall—and have their first performances next week. I know this isn't available just everywhere—but it would sure be a worthy ministry for a homeschooling family or support group to undertake in various places.

3. Christmas Gifts You Will Not Want to Miss at Library and Educational Services

There's still time to order gifts that "keep on giving" for Christmas from Library and Educational Services. If you have read our newsletters and articles for long, you know that we are big "audio" fans. When other children were watching television and playing video games over the past twenty years, our children have had all of the audio materials a Christian child could ever wish for. We have seen the benefit of audio materials over and over again—discussion starters, listening comprehension, character-building, background of experience builders, writing inspiration, and much more. I truly believe that the audio materials (and lack of so much visual entertainment) have caused our children to be better learners, thinkers, and comprehenders than almost anything else. The real plus comes, however, in the fact that audio materials are just plain fun. Children do not realize that they are expanding their background of knowledge, building vocabulary, and increasing comprehension at all! J

Library and Educational Services has the best prices on Focus on the Family radio dramas (we have them all!), Oddyseys (ditto), Your Story Hour (those too!), and much more. Right now they have some fantastic sales—sets as low as \$9.95. I know I sound like a commercial here—and trust me, we get no profit here (J). I just remember the faces of our children through the years as they opened entire sets of American Girl books, all 59 (at the time) Boxcar Children, Adventures in Odyssey sets, and much more—all purchased through Library and Educational Services. Check out the specials at www.libraryanded.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Affiliate=4-49&Screen=LOGN

4. Schedule a Well-Trained Heart Seminar or Almost 3 R's Seminar for 2009!

If your group would like to sponsor a Well-Trained Heart seminar or an Almost 3 R's Seminar in 2009, contact Ray today (260-597-7415). We only have a handful of small engagements during the first quarter of 2009 and would love to come present helpful heart training or language arts/writing instruction to your families. Check out our seminars at www.tfths.com/wthsem.php

5. Well-Trained Heart Christmas Special—Only \$10 Each for Two or More Books

During December and January, we are offering a special on our new parenting/homeschooling book, *The Well-Trained Heart*. If you purchase two or more copies, each one is only \$10! That's nearly \$8 off retail for each book. Check out the chapter titles and read the first chapter of the WTH at our website www.tfths.com/wth.php

Section III: CQLA, Meaningful Composition, and Language Arts

1. TFT Curriculum Links for You to Know

You probably already know that you can **get CQLA help, read past e-newsletters, read articles, download samples, read the first chapter of the WTH**, and more at our website at www.tfths.com

You can also go to Homeschoolblogger to read some of my **musings** (when I get time to add them) at <http://www.homeschoolblogger.com/relationalhomeschool>

Did you also know that you can **join the CQLA users group** to commiserate with other CQLA users or learn more about the program? That link is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CQLAUsers/>

And don't forget our CQLA **one month samples** to "try before you buy": www.tfths.com/samples.php

2. Meaningful Composition Samples Now Available...and More Coming Soon!

We have **samples of the three MC's** that we now have available—Book 4+, Book 6+, and Book 8+. All three of these are strong remediation books for students who have not been taught to write via a directed writing approach. Additionally, we will have Book 9: Research Reports and Book 12: Research Paper available soon. Keep checking our website for samples of each book as it becomes available- <http://www.tfths.com/samples.php>

3. Free Writing Help—Audio and Booklet Download

In January, we will be offering a *freebie* via *The Old Schoolhouse* entitled *Write On: The Writing Quick Kit*. It is an eighty minute audio download with an accompanying booklet designed to help parents learn to teach writing using TFT's directed writing approach. Check our website the first part of January for this free gift. (Our home page will direct you to the *freebie* www.tfths.com)

Section IV: In the Kitchen This Month

1. Holiday Leftovers

I have been collecting recipes and ideas through the years for using holiday leftovers. Unfortunately, the file is missing, so I am trying to duplicate some of it using some websites, old recipes, etc. Check out the link for my blog to find recipes using leftover ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, and much more. Turkey:

<http://www.homeschoolblogger.com/relationalhomeschool/628554/>

Ham: <http://www.homeschoolblogger.com/relationalhomeschool/628555/>

Others: <http://www.homeschoolblogger.com/relationalhomeschool/628556/>

2. Holiday Goodies Galore

We called Kayla (second child, age 22) at college the other evening (a nightly occurrence for Ray or me or both of us—gotta keep those heart strings tied!) to find her making "Muddy Buddies" in her dorm room at Southwestern University near Dallas, Texas (where she attends college for her second degree and works as a nurse at Baylor Hospital). She commented, "It's the only thing I could think to make in a tiny microwave oven." Kayla has been having cooking and baking withdrawal ever since she moved into the dorm in August. (And we have been missing her cooking and baking here too!) She went and got little baggies for her dorm

mates and Christmas containers from Dollar Tree for her professors, supervisors at work, etc. and she was happily making **multiple batches** of this treat in her little micro and packaging them on her desk top. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree! J

A couple of years ago I included a massive list of some of our favorite holiday goodies. We love to bake and make all kinds of treats and give them away at Christmas to neighbors, library workers, fellow newspaper deliverers, co-workers, students, relatives, etc. Check out our recipes at www.homeschoolblogger.com/relationalhomeschool/628560/

Section V: Article From Training for Triumph

“Holiday Musings”

by Donna Reish

I love Christmas! I love giving gifts to my children; I love lights and beautiful decorations; I love doing family activities over and over again every year; I love baking goodies and giving them away. I even have a verse to substantiate my desire to give good gifts to my kids at Christmas time: “If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your father, which is in heaven, give good things to them that ask him?” (Matthew 7:11). I mean, God knows that even we mere mortals love to give good gifts to our kids! J

Although all of the things in my “I love” list above are somewhat “unspiritual,” we have found through the years there are some common threads that we try to emphasize/do during the Christmas holiday—some to remember and ponder what Christ has done for us more fully; some to deepen our relationships with each other; some to show Christ's love to the world. Allow me, to um, give you a list of my holiday musings. J

1. Think about, talk about, sing about, and remember the true reason for Christmas as a family throughout the month. We have found many things that help us focus on the birth of Christ more and more throughout December: singing carols together; reading Christmas picture books with the littles in the afternoons; collecting nativity scenes; reading from chapter books that emphasize the birth of Christ, such as Max Lucado's *Cosmic Christmas*, Gene Edwards' *The Birth*, and Marjorie Holmes' *Two From Galilee*; going to community events that point us back to the reason for the season, such as Christmas plays (our kids are in two this year!), live nativities, walks through Bethlehem, Christmas cantatas, movies and plays that emphasize the coming of the Savior.
2. Create family traditions. We have too many holiday traditions to list in just one short article, but research has born out the importance of traditions in building a child's outlook on many things—and it is so obvious when you hear children talk and repeat that mantra: “We *always*...” There is something about being able to say that *we always*, or *our family likes to*... Two of our favorite traditions are decorating the house together and reading inspirational Christmas stories throughout the month of December. Our older kids laugh until they cry as they give play-by-plays of each ornament making ordeal we have gone through. (Our tree is decorated with only home made ornaments—another tradition we have is that of making ornaments together.) Anyway, they have a joke of holding up the sample ornament (one that I bought that we were modeling after) and holding up one of ours and chiming, “Sample ornament; Reish ornament” over and over. Then they tell about the time I threw the cinnamon sticks across the room in a fit of Christmas stress as we tried to make the “ornaments in a minute” out of cinnamon sticks. Then we all laugh some more—and I try my best to keep from crying as I think about Christmases gone by—and wonder where the years have gone and long for just a day from a Christmas ten or fifteen years ago. Traditions do not have to be elaborate or expensive. Some of ours (besides the decorating night and ornament making) are as simple as watching certain Christmas movies while we wrap gifts; eating shrimp alfredo while we watch *White Christmas*; reading about holiday traditions each morning; learning a new carol together each year (all the

verses!); having the kids exchange their gifts with each other on Christmas Eve; reading inspirational stories each night before bed; reading one of the Gospels during the month of December; etc.

3. Think about Jesus' entire life—his birth, life, death, and resurrection—not just his birth. Linking the Christmas story to the fact that without it we would have no hope of salvation is important, especially with younger children. Two ways that we do this include discussing, reading about, and singing about the names of Christ and what they mean throughout the month; and reading one of the Gospels—not just the Christmas story—during December. This helps us focus on our salvation even more.
4. Reach out to those less fortunate—and do so in a way that costs you and your children something. I know that doesn't sound very "Christmasy"—good cheer and mistletoe and all (btw, I love mistletoe if the right "mistletoe-y" is around! J), but taking a can to a canned food drive or parents buying gifts for the children to leave at the angel tree are not sacrifices for our children—and do not do much to teach our children the true meaning of Christmas—and the true meaning of sacrificial giving. When I speak of reaching out to those less fortunate, I am talking about giving up time (a few evenings or days?) and money (money that a child could buy himself something with). I'm talking about doing hard things (see next newsletter's article "Only By Comparison"). I'm talking about getting dirty, being inconvenienced, etc. I know that sounds strange, but honestly, what could we possibly do or give that would be too much for our Lord? Find true, meaningful service projects for your children—extensive time spent at a nursing home or group home caroling, making cookies with residents, reading to them, etc.; earning money to be used to give gifts to truly poor or forgotten people (like county home residents or the disabled); going out into the homes of people who never have a Christmas visitor; serving food at a soup kitchen; cleaning mattresses at a rescue mission. Focus on others more than ever before this Christmas—your children will thank you for it eventually. (For the new year, read the stories written by the author of *Mandate for Mercy* (also the founder of the Mercy Ship ministry) about how his mom made his family squeeze together in the car every week to pick up poor and desperate people to take them to church—and the impact this had on this man causing him to spend his life on the poor and desolate—this is the kind of reaching out we are purporting here.)
5. Reach out to your relatives. Yes, those strangers who are watching television the whole family get together while puffing away on their cigarettes. Teach your children to go to family get togethers to serve—not to judge. Start out with a Bible study on "being great in God's kingdom by serving" and "doing for others asking nothing in return" and "being a light by your good works." Then, if it is true, tell your children that you have been more concerned about yourself than you have of others at past family get togethers. And that you want your entire family to change all of that. That you want to "do your good works that others would glorify your father in heaven." Discuss ways that you can do this during this holiday season: working harder to make good dishes to the gatherings (no lentil casserole, please—bless these people with fat and sugar!); helping with young cousins; encouraging grandparents; helping to set up and take down; being kind to each other as an example of family unity to those who might not have any idea what that looks like. (Note: Because I always get asked this, I will put a caveat here—I am not talking about reaching out to relatives in any way that would put your children in danger. We recommend that your children never be left with non-Christians and never be put in situations in which they could be harmed.)
6. Really talk to others this holiday season. Your ministry of bringing your relatives to Christ will begin not with your family's judgment of them, but with your interest and concern for their lives in general. Jeff Myers, leadership specialist and founder of Passing the Baton, gives the following list of things to discuss this year with relatives young and old. Some are one-on-one types of discussions while others would work well for group discussions:

Express thanks to someone in the room for something they did for you.

"I'm thankful for..." Finish the sentence.

If you could have the attention of the whole world for 30 seconds, what would you say?

One thing I'm thankful for about our country.

What is the key to success in life? Why do you say that?

Tell about a lesson you learned the hard way.

What are some ways life is different now than in the old days?

Tell a story of a decision your ancestors made that changed the direction of their lives-and yours.

Tell about a lesson you learned by watching someone else.

"A person I would like to honor publicly is..."

"Time and money aside, I would rather be..."

Tell about an experience that changed you for the better.

Tell a story about something that started out bad but had a happy ending.

"My first hero was _____."

Tell about a time when you showed courage.

Describe a teacher who had a significant influence on your life.

Tell about an invention that made your life easier.

"The most admired public figure when I was growing up was ____." Tell a story.

Tell about a memorable event in your life.

"A famous person I've met is ____." Tell about the experience.

"I got in so much trouble..." Tell the story!

www.passingthebaton.readyportal.net/page/68289/?jsessionid=6rj638as0ohf7

7. Express genuine gratefulness to God and others. December is a month to really display the quality of gratefulness—and to teach your children to do so too. Not just mere "thank-yous"—but sincere thanksgiving to God for His Son and for others for everything they do for us. Teaching children to say thank-you, write thank-you notes, etc. is a start. However, gratefulness begins with the realization that everything good we have comes from the hand of God. That we are nothing without Him. And that He knows what we need more than we do. It is deepened when we give up materialism—the idea that we have to have this or that in order to be happy—and focus instead on the good things God has done for us. Thoughts on materialism would require an entire article in itself, but when we have to have things to make us happy, when our mood and outlook change as a result of getting more and more, or when we cannot be happy in whatever situation we are in (materially speaking), we are probably steeped in materialism. Praying through this, sharing with our family the importance of giving up our ideas that we somehow deserve this or that, focusing on gratefulness for all that God has done for us outside the material things we are lacking—these are ways to feel and exhibit true gratefulness.

8. Spend quality time reaching into your children's hearts. That's a tough one, huh? I mean, the busiest time of the year, and we have to add another thing to the list. I remember vividly fifteen years ago when I had five kids ten and under. I still had younger siblings at home who would come and spend a lot of Christmas week with us. I made four Christmas dinners in a row for various relatives. I got up early in the morning to make home baked bread and rolls and went to bed late at night to get the overnight breakfast casseroles in the oven. I get tired just thinking about it. I was trying to serve others, but found myself distanced from my kids by the time the holiday week was over. I can remember looking at Joshua, then ten, one evening after the relatives had all left, and calling him over to "sit in Mommy's rainbow" (my bent legs as I lay on the sofa)—and he seemed so far away. I had been with him all week—I was usually with my older kids all the time as they did not have any older siblings to take them anywhere like my littles now have! However, I felt so far from him. I had let the busy-ness of Christmas keep me from those I love the most. Now I have to remind myself that one more home made goody or one more shopping day is not worth distancing myself from my children. Stay close. It's Christmas!

This Christmas I pray that all of us can "keep Christmas" in a way that glorifies God and teaches our children those deep Christmas truths.

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