

家新伴你行
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“Others mindedness”

November comes, the copious attractive X'mas catalogues from all Stores and Businesses come sliding through our mailbox. As soon as my children come off school, they would race to get the colourful captivating catalogues, flipping through them with excitement and highlighting their desired gifts and making a Wish List of what they want for X'mas.

Though X'mas is about the Gift....gift of a Savior that God gave to mankind, but sadly to the young generation living in to-day's world of materialism and commercialism, X'mas to them has become a festive season in receiving gifts of their desire.

Watching their behaviour with concern, and understandably that they are under the effect of to-day's "Me, Me Generation", injecting narcissism, self-centeredness, entitlement and self-interest in them, I am determined to instill our faith and values on 'giving' in them, and I also have a strong desire to change their mindset of "not just about me".

That night, at "Pillow Talk" I shared my concern with my husband, Mark. He also expressed his concern at the alarming speed of the emergence of the "Me Generation" at this present day Digital Age. We both wanted to nurture our children to be "others-centered".

That following night, during our usual family time at dinner, Mark said, "It is only 5 weeks to X'mas, we are really thankful to God's generous gift of His Son Jesus to the world." He then turned his head to Tom, our elder child, and asked, "What does it mean to be generous?" Tom pondered a little and said, "To be generous is to give and to share. It is kind of giving freely because you want to, like donating to a worthwhile cause, like putting money into Offering at church." At this moment our younger daughter, Jan, chipped in and said, "When I share my lollies with Mary and Rosie at school, I don't expect anything from them in return, I am generous, right?" With the same breath she continued, "The other day, Mary forgot to bring her lunch to school, I gave her half of my sandwich!" We all smiled at her and I delightfully responded, "Good job! You are kind and generous, we are very proud of you!"

Amused at our children's correct positive responses, Mark continued, "Jesus sacrificed His life, setting a "Generosity" example for us. While on earth, He was concerned with the poor, the sick and the needy; He was always willing to spend time with His Followers. There are many ways to practice generosity, to learn to be "others minded", like:

- Completing your homework on time in order to help the family with chores and meals.

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- Giving your time and talent to others, like Tom, you are good in Reading and Maths. When you spend time with your little sister in Reading, or helping out your friends in Maths that is being generous too.
- Even praising the good you see in others.
- Also conserving our natural resources and taking care of the environment is being generous to future generations.

Generosity is not about self, it is “others-mindedness”. It is one of the best ways to show love. It touches people’s hearts. This X’mas, we want you to make a “Give List” and not a “Gift List”. A list of items you plan to make, to donate to friends and neighbours in need, like Bobby’s Mum who is having Cancer treatment at the moment. I am going to look up the Service Projects at church that we can all go to give our time and service to others “

By then we have finished dinner, before clearing the dishes I said this prayer with the family:

“Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy. Lord we ask you to help us to remember to share all that we have with other ; guide our thoughts to not expect anything in return when we are generous ; help us to learn to be generous with our compliments of others , in praising and acknowledging their goodness ; help us to give of our time and talents as well as our treasure; remind us to be good stewards of what you have given us , so that those of future generations may enjoy your gifts, too. Amen”

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

~ by Brook