

LONG, EXTENDED GIFTS

Christmas is just over a week away, but it's not too early to give some things away. Not just on Christmas Day, but during the days leading up to December 25.

We could call these daily gifts "our Christmas projects." Perhaps one per day from now until then. Here are some suggestions. Take your choice:

- Mend a quarrel.
- Seek out a forgotten friend.
- Write a long-overdue love note.
- Forgive an enemy.
- Be gentle and patient with an angry person.
- Express appreciation.
- Gladden the heart of a child.
- Make or bake something for someone else. Anonymously.
- Release a grudge.
- Listen.
- Speak kindly to a stranger.
- Enter into another's sorrow.
- Smile. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more.
- Take a walk with a friend.
- Read a poem or two to your mate or a friend.
- Lessen your demands on others.
- Play some beautiful music during supper.
- Apologize if you were wrong.
- Talk together with the television off.
- Treat someone to an ice-cream cone.
- Do the dishes for the family.
- Pray for someone who helped you when you hurt.
- Encourage an older person
- Point out one thing you appreciate most about someone you work with or live near.
- Offer to babysit for a weary mother.



Let's make Christmas one long, extended gift of ourselves to others. Unselfishly. Without announcement. Or obligation. Or reservation. Or hypocrisy.

That is Christianity, isn't it?

And He (Jesus) looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had (Luke 21:1-4 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter