

The Spirit of Christmas

From the Journal of Andrew Fjeld

The spirit of Christmas, the day we celebrate as the birthday of the Savior of the world, is, first of all; the spirit of love.

He said, "God is love". Love one another. love your neighbor as yourself. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. And consider this; love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and despitefully use you.

It is the spirit of peace. For He is the very prince of peace. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

It is the spirit of giving, for He gave his life that we might live again.

It is the spirit of liberty, for the Gospel of Christ is the perfect law of liberty.

It is the spirit of mercy, for blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

Thus I might go on and on, for the spirit of Christmas is the spirit of Christ himself. He is the perfect example and teacher of obedience to our Heavenly Father and in keeping all of His laws and commandments.

Isaiah described this great personage seven hundred years before He was born: "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor; The Mighty God; The Everlasting Father; The Prince of Peace".

The birth of Christ is the most important event that has happened in this world since the beginning of history. He has influenced the minds of men more than all the kings, armies and navies that have ever been on earth, if they were all put together.

Ever since man has been on the earth he has been scourged by strife, hatreds, bitterness and war. We have just passed through the greatest and most savage war of all time. We are hoping and praying that a permanent peace may come to the world, but if the inhabitants do not adopt the teachings of this humble man of Galilee, and make them part of their lives, there will never be a permanent and a lasting peace.

December is an important month to all Latter-Day Saints, for in it we not only celebrate the birth of the Savior but also the birth of the great Latter-Day Prophet, Joseph Smith who was born two days before Christmas, December 23, 1805.

We believe that Joseph Smith has done more for the salvation of mankind except the Savior himself, than any other prophet that ever lived. A week tomorrow it will be 141 years since Joseph Smith was born.

Christmas is celebrated in many lands and in many devious ways. I have had the rare experience of eating two Christmas dinners in the midst of summer, in Australia. The day after, is Box Day.