



December 18, 2009

Dear Friends:

Today, the LifeWord comes from Linda. Enjoy!

CHRISTMAS CHEER



Christmas is synonymous with joy, celebration and hope. But down deep, do we really understand what is so unique about this day of celebration and remembrance? Do we really comprehend the full power of this special day that stands as no other in History?

In the other "holidays" we celebrate, we honor or acknowledge a human accomplishment or event. Maybe it was someone who made a great discovery, or one who acted in a courageous manner or one who was a visionary who brought unjust laws to an end. The causes, the heroes and the birth of the nation have been deemed worthy to celebrate and rightfully so.

But the thing that makes Christmas WORTHY of celebration is that it honors the Divine Gift (part God, part man) and commemorates the Heavenly, angel announced, event that changed the course of history for every human that has ever lived or will ever live on this earth. The focal part of history is HIS story!

There is more! The Birth of Jesus, God's Son, is not just a warm and fuzzy human interest story passed along every year to give us something to do in December. And although fun to experience, the Santa pictures, crowded malls, office parties, gift-giving, decorations and even family get-togethers do not reflect the real reason or meaning of the Christmas Celebration! It is a Celebration of Divine Power.

In Luke 1, the Angel of the Lord told Mary the celebration news first and real hope finally took root as the greatest gift ever offered to mankind was presented to a sinful world in the form of a baby... *"And you shall call His Name...Jesus". Yeshua. And "He shall save His people from their sins".* Hope, for all of us, was born that night in Bethlehem!

This thrilling narrative of history and the dramatic story of Jesus' birth was prophesied by Isaiah and fulfilled to the letter. Years later, the genius composer Handel borrowed Isaiah's words and the Holy Spirit hummed the tune in his ear and each year we sing its majestic verse and rejoice in the promise, *"For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulders and His Name will be called: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* And because of those words, we have the Christmas gift of life forever. Now that is reason to kick your shoes off and celebrate!

Merry Christmas!

Linda

The LifeGate