

CHARACTER



Peace

December 2007

PEACE: A result of goodness and service.

“If you want to make peace, you don’t talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies”

--Moshe Dayan

This is the season for holiday joy and with it comes the hustle and bustle of making sure everything is just right for Christmas morning. The character trait for this month is peace.

When I think of the word peace, many things come to mind. Peace of conscience is a phrase I have often heard. Peace of conscience means to live without the constant nagging of a guilty conscience. I remember when I was about 6 or 7 years old and my grandfather received a letter that had a twenty dollar bill in it. The person who sent this letter said that about twenty years earlier he had stolen gasoline from my grandfather and his conscience had been bothering him for these many years. In order for him to have peace of conscience, he needed to repay the value of what he had taken. I hope that we can live in ways with each other that we can have peace of conscience. If we have a need to repair a damage which we have done, let us do it quickly so we can have this gift of peace.

Peace of mind is another commonly used phrase. To have peace of mind means to be free of unnecessary worry. I know everyone has something to worry about. The key is to only worry about the things you have power to change. We cannot spend our time worrying about what others are thinking or saying about us. We need to move forward with our lives and responsibilities in order to have true peace. When I think back over the Christmases I have experienced, I have a peaceful feeling. I cannot remember many of the gifts I received or the money spent on me. I do remember the time spent with family playing games, singing together, and doing other wholesome activities. Many times we spend so much time worrying about what to give people for Christmas, we may forget that a true friendship is worth more

than anything else we could give. When my Father passed away several years ago, the flowers and cards sent brought some solace, but the knowledge that he loved me and cared about me is what truly brought me peace. Let's make sure that people know we care.

Another thing that comes to my mind when thinking about peace is freedom. As you are each painfully aware, our men and women in uniform are in many places around the world helping to bring peace. Their sacrifice on behalf of those less fortunate is tremendous. I have visited with many who have returned from serving and without exception, they have always spoken about the joy they personally had received by serving others. I am grateful for these men and women. It is because of their sacrifice that we can enjoy the freedom we have.

We have also each heard of places in the world that are not as affluent as our own country. I find it interesting to learn how happy the people are that live in these places. It seems that the amount of money someone has does not increase their happiness or sadness. They have peace in their homes. I think this is called contentment. To be content in your circumstances at a given time is right. We can and should always work to make our circumstances better, but we should never get depressed or down about where we currently are. To have peace in your circumstance, look around you. You don't need to look very far to find someone in a worse situation.

May this Christmas season bring you much happiness and peace.

Errol Porter
Principal Timpanogos Academy

“Peace is the one condition of survival in this nuclear age.”

– Adlai E. Stevenson

“While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.”

-- St. Francis of Assisi

“If we have not peace within ourselves, it is in vain to seek it from outward sources.”

– Rochefoucauld

Book List

"The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey"

by Susan Wojciechowskiance

"The Other Wise Man"

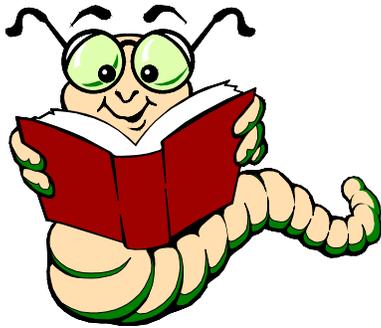
by Henry van Dyke

"Great Granny Rose and the Family Christmas Tree"

by Ann Edwards Cannon

"The Littlest Angel"

by Charles Tazewell



Family Activities

–**Make a paper Christmas tree of peace.** As family members exhibit actions that bring peace, add ornaments. On Christmas day rejoice together in the beauty that peace brings.

–**Work together on a family service project.** Perhaps you could write to those away from their families, sub for Santa, or visit the homebound.

–**Walt Disney was born on December 5, 1901.** His gift of peace to the world was animations. Watch a Disney Christmas animation. *What gift can you give to make the world more peaceful?*

By Laura Clement

Kid's Corner

Peace is a quiet stillness inside of you. It's when you wake up in the morning and are surprised that the snow has fallen softly all night. Peace is the warm glow of being with a family that loves you. Peace is happiness when you are getting along with your friends, with no arguments. It feels peaceful when there is good music to listen to or a great piece of art that has been painted. Peace is the clear thinking in your head after a long run or hike. But mostly peace comes when there is quiet understanding of others, making right choices and living life the way you know you should.

Emily Stuart
age 13

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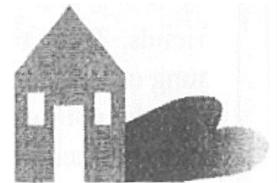
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