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CHRISTMAS-TIME

Unbelievably slow, one week after another went by, the days simply crept in slow motion into the past and the excitement grew unbearable. And now the big day is here. With sparkling eyes and expectations mounting, the child stands before the Christmas tree, hardly comprehending it all, the little mouth simply staying open. Christmas — the greatest of all feasts — has finally arrived in its full glory, with all the sweets, presents and happy people!

So it was . . . when we were young! Then we believed that an angel had brought all the presents, that father Christmas had so skilfully decorated the magic tree and lit all the candles.

Today all this seems to have gone. But is it really so just because we have grown up? Have we forgotten how to marvel at the birth of Christ? Does HIS coming, the flowering shrub, the singing bird and the coloured sky at sunset only exist for children?

In extending my Christmas greeting to all of you, my compatriots and friends, I hope that the reflection on these marvels will fill you with joy and happiness. May the coming of Christ brighten your hard-working day and fill you with joy today as it did when you were children.

KARL BISCHOF,
President, Swiss Society.