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WILMETTE, Ill. — Baha'is across the United States joined millions of believers throughout the world in commemoration of the 153rd anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah, Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith on November 12.

Mr. Glenford E. Mitchell, Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States, stated the theme of this year's observance is "Baha'u'llah - Divine Educator for Today." The theme is tied to 1970's International Education Year.

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Baha'is regard Baha'u'llah, which means the "Glory of God," as the Bearer of God's Word for this day. They see Baha'u'llah as the latest, though not the last, of God's Messengers who come as Divine Educators to mankind.

"Baha'u'llah has established definite principles to guide the educators of the future," Mr. Mitchell stated. "In the Baha'i Writings we find the following principles: Education must be universal; it is the duty of every parent to educate his children; education must be practical — all must be taught a trade or profession; education must serve useful ends, human welfare; education should be a joyful process; and education must concern itself not only with the mind and with the moral, but with the spiritual development of the person."

"The Prophets of God have been the most potent factors in the education of mankind.

For this age God has sent us Baha'u'llah as the Divine Educator. He has brought a renewal of God's Word and applicable social teachings. His Message is one of hope and provides the blueprint for a future world civilization."

Baha'u'llah was born on November 12, 1817 in Tehran, Iran (formerly Persia). He suffered denial, exile and imprisonment in the Holy Land, then under the rule of Turkey. His tomb, a Baha'i shrine, is located across the bay from Haifa, where on Mt. Carmel is located the World Centre of the Baha'i Faith.

Baha'u'llah taught that God is one and that all revealed religions have one source. He also taught that mankind is one — all being children of one God. Baha'is believe Baha'u'llah came in fulfillment of the promises of Christ and of all the great religions.