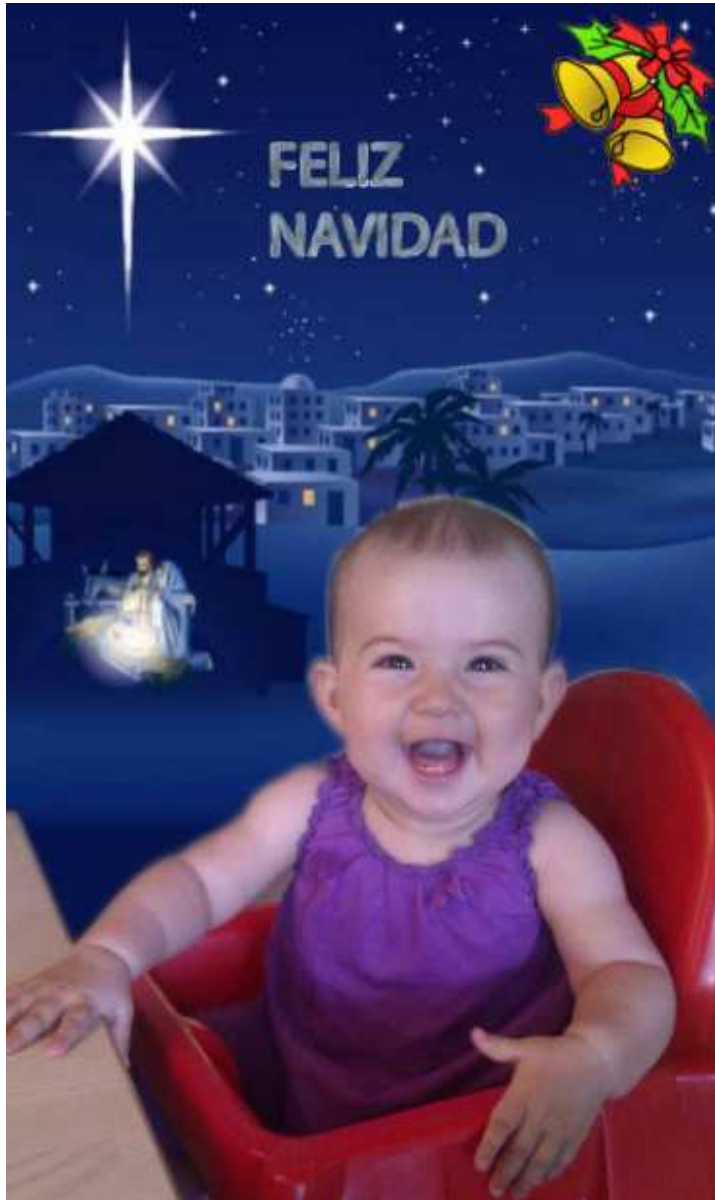


A NEW ERA FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR LIFE



Agnes Gómez Börjesson
Daughter of Irene and Anders

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

Luke 13:6-9

The pre-eminent image of Christmas is the face of the child, the baby Jesus, and that face is seen in those of all children. It is an important message signifying the beginning of life, rebirth, starting again, renewal. So in this year 2012, a cosmic energy has been prepared to defeat all the fears, terrors, and despairs; that is to say a phenomenon will be produced that the Mayan Indians call BAKTUM -- a new heaven, a new earth, a new global cycle, for a new opportunity of life.

So in the history of mankind, this Christmas of 2012, will be a special year in which the planet and entire cosmos came to an end and needed to begin anew.

As a snake sheds its skin, sheds its clothes, and throws them out and gets new clothing, a new history is being prepared for the world, that we start to write in 2013. Now those being responsible for building this new phase, are the men and women of good will, the sons and daughters of God, those humans who come into the world to fulfill a mission as laborers for a better world.

The Gospel tells us: "No one who does not become like a child can enter the Kingdom of Heaven." It is worth restating this by saying that anyone who does not become a new creature, in the new cycle of the world, will not be able to build new systems of life for a new world that begins as if it were a baby, a boy, a girl.

The children of this generation will be clothed anew in the spirit of rebirth. They will have, as the prophet says, new dreams, new visions and build something new. This is what we hope for, what we deserve, what is fair and necessary. Let's hope, prepare ourselves and we ought to offer ourselves, so that children fulfill their role of being sent into the world.

For youth, with their creative and dream-filled energy, for adults and elders, with the experience of all the mistakes we contribute to the construction of a new more just, more humane world, this new opportunity must not be wasted.

In this unique Christmas, and this unique year 2012, "Merry Christmas" means we can all be agents of Baktum, of the new cycle of the cosmos, and so we will have a 2013 full of blessings and prosperity.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

Medardo E. Gómez

Bishop

Salvadoran Lutheran Church

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