

Happy New Year,

The volunteers of Mission Teaching Foundation and the students and staff of the Chiapas Education Program of Yashalum would like to extend to all our sponsors and friends the very best of wishes for a healthy and peaceful 2012.

Our hearts are joyful and hopeful. We all realize that this year begins with all the problems of the old year: escalating violence, human trafficking, drug trafficking, increasing poverty and deepening damage to our planet.

We also believe that things can get better. We believe in Christmas. We believe in a God who has come to dwell with the people, to be part of their struggle. We believe that the angels told the good news first to the shepherds, who represent the poor and humble of that time, and that the shepherds saw the new born Child and became the first to announce the news to the region.

Among the indigenous, the shepherds are always children, the elderly and the physically challenged, the ones not strong enough to work in the corn and bean fields. They are the ones especially favored by the Lord to be bearers of glad tidings.

The Mayans in Chiapas take that calling very seriously for the New Year. Many have chosen education as the way to foster change. They know that God is with them in this challenge. They know that you are with them and that you wish them every success.

They thank you for your prayers and support.

Próspero Año Nuevo.

MTF and Yashalum.