

Christmas 2022

★ Letter from Raúl Izquierdo
International coordinator

There in Bethlehem and here too



We were told that a very special child would be born soon, so all the members of Faith and Light from all over the world went to Bethlehem, yes, to Bethlehem! For some of us it was a bit far, but we decided to go on the adventure. That day, this little village in the Judean hills was beginning to be very lively: Faith and Light communities were arriving from all over the world to welcome the child who was going to be born.

The brown of the mountains and the grey of the sky contrasted with the explosion of colours of the Faith and Light banners and scarves. And on all these banners, you could see the boat in the middle of the sea with the twelve figures. Bethlehem turned into a festival. Songs and music could be heard in every corner of the village. It was a wonderful symphony, very rhythmic and full of joy. The angels who were preparing to sing heavenly hymns were stunned by such enthusiasm. Who are these people of Faith and Light? Some of the angels put aside their trumpets and horns and joined in the fun dancing of this great family.

There were fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, friends. All forming small communities that meet regularly to share life and faith. People with disabilities shone brighter than the star that guided the Magi, and shepherds came to join the celebration. The celebration was so genuine, it was filled with laughter and songs, until a noise stopped the party. It was the cry of a new-born baby. Then there was silence and the hearts of those present quivered. All Faith and Light went on pilgrimage to the place where the cry came from. There was no light other than the small candles that everyone held in their hands. And there, in a dilapidated stable, was a mother who had just given birth and was holding her baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. His mother cuddled him against her with infinite tenderness while his father showed his affection by his looks and gestures. It was a touching scene. An ox and a donkey were the companions of this unforgettable moment.

All the people of Faith and Light stood around this family with adoration and respect. The emotion could be felt. The mother looked at the pilgrims and smiled with complicity. And the celebration continued until the first light of dawn.

This child, Jesus, was born. God himself had become flesh among us. Mary and Joseph looked at each other and smiled, and each Faith and Light community went home to continue meeting as they always have.

This scene, this moment, is written in the memory of those who lived it and those who heard the story. God wants to be with us forever. He does not leave us. He loves us so much that he makes himself like us. Today and every day of our lives.

Merry Christmas to all my brothers and sisters of Faith and Light around the world!

