

**A Muslim Message of Thanks and of Christmas Greetings, December
2007**

In the Name of the God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

*May God bless Muhammad and his kin just as He has blessed Abraham and his
kin*

Al-Salaamu Aleikum; Peace be upon you; Pax Vobiscum

Peace be upon Jesus Christ who says: *Peace is upon me the day I was born, the day I die, and the day I am resurrected* (Chapter of Mary; the Holy Qur'an; 19:34).

During these joyful holidays we write to you, our Christian neighbors all over the world, in order to thank you truly for the beautiful and responses that we Muslims have been receiving from the very first day we issued our invitation to come together to 'A Common Word' based on 'Love of God and love of neighbor' (see www.acommonword.com for the document and the responses).

We thank you and wish you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas Holiday Season commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ ﷺ.

We Muslims bear witness that: *There is no god but God, without associate, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, and that Jesus is His Servant, His Messenger, His Word cast to Mary, and a Spirit from Him ...* (Sahih Bukhari, Kitab Ahadith al-Anbiya)

We pray, during these blessed days, which happen to coincide with the Muslim feast of the *Hajj* or Pilgrimage, commemorating the faith of the Prophet Abraham ﷺ, that the New Year may bring healing and peace to our suffering world. God's refusal to let Abraham ﷺ sacrifice his son—granting him instead a ram—is to this day a Divine warrant and a most powerful social lesson for all the followers of the Abrahamic faiths, to ever do their utmost to save, uphold and treasure every single human life and especially the lives of every single child. Indeed, it is worthy of note that this year Muslim scholars issued a historical declaration affirming the sanctity of human life—*of every human life*—as an essential and foundational teaching in Islam upon which all Muslim scholars are in unanimous agreement (see details at: www.duaatalislam.com).

May the coming year be one in which the sanctity and dignity of human life is upheld by all. May it be a year of humble repentance before God, and mutual forgiveness within and between communities.

Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds..