

## A Journey of Hope and Peace Toward the Light of Christmas

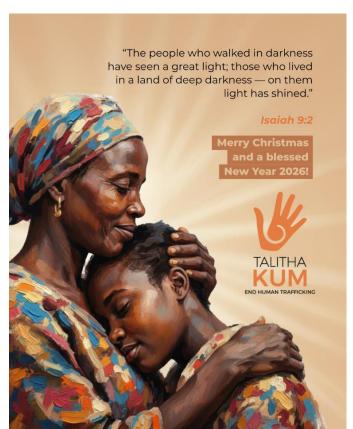
"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined." – Isaiah 9:2

This Christmas, as we gaze upon the Child in the manger, we think of many people who still walk in darkness – refugees, mothers, and children searching for safety, peace, and love.

We remember people, like "Rahil", a young woman from Darfur, who after years of fear and separation, was finally reunited with her mother. Their embrace, after so many tears and miles apart became a sign of peace, a moment when God's love touched the world.

Rahil's family fled from war in Sudan, only to fall into the hands of traffickers. Separated by violence and fear, they might have been lost forever. Yet, across deserts and borders, love did not give up! Through the care and accompaniment of Talitha Kum network and their partners, the family found safety, healing, and hope once again.

Through their compassionate presence, Christmas came alive – showing that God dwells in every act of love that restores life. The reunion of mother and daughter reminds us of peace and love.



"Every encounter with a survivor is a sacred space – where pain meets compassion, and where hope begins to rise again." – Sr. Abby Avelino, MM

May this Christmas fill our hearts with that same love – to open doors, share tears, protect life, and bring light to others. May we keep weaving the threads of hope, peace, and new beginnings, so the world may see Emmanuel – God with us, God with the fragile, God who never abandons.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Source: Talitha Kum