



New Year Greetings:

For all Ethiopians

Happy N.Y.2003

May God inspire this year for development and peace of Ethiopians and Ethiopia!

Another day, another month, another year, another smile, new plan of development, new peace and love of one another, new solidarity and subsidiarity, new forgiveness and happiness!!

Ethiopia has its own ancient calendar. The Ethiopian Calendar has more in common with the Coptic Egyptian Calendar. The Ethiopic and Coptic calendars have 13 months, 12 of 30 days each and an intercalary month at the end of the year of 5 or 6 days depending whether the year is a leap year or not.

The Ethiopian calendar is much more similar to the Egyptian Coptic calendar having a year of 13 months, 365 days and 366 days in a leap year (every fourth year) and it is much influenced by the Ethiopian Church and state, which follows its ancient calendar rules and beliefs.

The year starts on 11 September in the Gregorian Calendar or on the 12th in (Gregorian) Leap Years. The Coptic Leap Year follows the same rules as the Gregorian so that the extra month always has 6 days in a Gregorian Leap Year.

This is because of **Gregorio Magno** o **Gregorio il Grande** (Roma, 540 about - Roma, 12 March 604), Being the 64^o pope of the Roman Catholic Church since 3 September 590 up to his death, modified the calendar by the difference of 7 years.

But the Ethiopic calendar also differs from both the Coptic and the Julian calendars. The difference between the Ethiopic and Coptic

is 276 years. In spite of this, the Ethiopic Calendar is closely associated with the rules and the different calculations influenced by the Coptic Church and the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church.

Based upon the ancient Coptic Calendar, the Ethiopian Calendar is seven to eight years behind the Gregorian Calendar, owing to alternate calculations in determining the date of the annunciation of the birth of Jesus.

Ethiopia, an old country beyond all imaginations, has culture and traditions dating back over 3000 years. With over 80 different Ethnic groups with their own language, culture and traditions. The strong religious setting, celebrations and festivals play an important part in every ones daily life.

Religious ceremonies are a major feature of Ethiopian life. The events are impressive and unique. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church has its own head, follows its own customs, and is extremely proud of its fourth century origins. No more differences with catholic Universal church and side by side respecting each other since 1439 of the council of Florence, that was attended by Ethiopian 5 delegators sent by Zera Yacob great philosopher of Ethiopia and Africa.

Ethiopia's Islamic tradition is also strong and offers colorful contrast, for the country. In fact, there were Ethiopian Muslims during the lifetime of Prophet Mohammed. This rich religious history is brought to life in the romantic fashion city of Harar, considered by many Muslims to be the fourth "Holy City" following Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2003 FOR ALL ETHIOPIANS!!!

With love and patrial sensation

Abba Hagos Would

Roma.