



Dear Friends:

Now don't be alarmed. Old Fitz hasn't gone cynical on you. It's just that after a year which has seen untimely death close at hand, earthquakes in Italy, fires in California, savage persecution in El Salvador, fear of invasion in Poland and "millions trapped in poverty while wealth is lavished on armaments everywhere", it seems somewhat impolite, at best, to be outrageously happy ... even at Christmas!

Nevertheless, my faith and hope (and yours too, I pray!!) remain undimmed. The ancient vision of a world at peace, and a human family in love, "with a child to lead them" (Isaiah), is as real and valid as ever. May it seem even moreso in the new year.

Blessings and love to you,