

Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero, National Latino Evangelical Coalition: Esperanza: A Word to Our Jewish Family



As Jews all over the globe enter into the Yamim Nora'im, the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, it is an opportune moment for the Latino Evangelical community in the United States to express our solidarity with American and global Jewry. It is not lost on me that the Jewish High Holy Days fall at the same time of Hispanic Heritage Month. The simultaneous celebrations of our cultures and faith are a clarion call to our communities to work together for Tikkun Olam- the healing of our world.

As Hispanic Evangelicals wish our Jewish friends "L'shanah tovah", we must accompany our well wishes with a renewed commitment to honor and defend our shared humanity and flourishing. The National Latino Evangelical Coalition remains confident that G-d is in the process of making all things new and that we can co-labor with G-d and Jewish familia in pursuing the shalom and justice that heals our nation.

Hispanic Heritage Month and the Yamin Nora'im are days that highlight our shared faith of building a more perfect and equitable union. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

Indubitably, our nation is living through challenging times. Together we face the multiple trials of a global pandemic, destructive wildfires, economic recession, and persistent racial tensions. In times of national unrest, the temptation to underscore our divisions looms large.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur calls us to resist these temptations and to move to the highest and noblest angels of our national character. The reimagining that accompanies Rosh Hashanah and the renewal that rises from the repentance of

Yom Kippur is a propitious time for our two communities to work together for a world free of xenophobia and anti-Semitism. The recent rise in anti-Semitic and xenophobic attacks in our nation and across the world will not have the last word. This can and must be a season of hope and newness. This newness is not captive to facile depictions and caricatures, but is in the words of Zephaniah, "prisoners of hope."

Scripture reminds us that Abraham and Sarah were sojourners sustained by their faith and hope. Latinos and Jews are immigrant peoples whose faith has brought us a long way. We are the sons and daughters of our immigrant peoples who through tempests and storms have renewed the American mosaic with faith, joy and hope. We are captives to Jeremiah's vision of Shalom, that calls us to seek the welfare of the places were G-d brings us. Whenever we celebrate together, at the core of our celebrations is a resilient hope that G-d is renewing things.

In many Hispanic families a common name for our daughters is Esperanza- the Spanish word for hope. We do this not only because of the melodious sound of the name but also because our children remind us that G-d has not given up on the world. In many Jewish families sons are named Yitzhak/Isaac- it comes from the root word for laughter and joy. My greeting on behalf of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition for our familia of Jewry around the world is that during these days of newness and renewal may we continue to bear generations of Esperanzas and Yitzhaks. May we work together for justice and peace in ways that produce hope and laughter.

L'shanah Tovah!

**Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero,
National Latino Evangelical Coalition**