

Dias de las Mujer  
Maya Fire Ceremony \*  
December 3, 2010  
Izapa Ceremonial  
Temple Center  
Mexico--



\*INAH Permission

Izapa Cosmos, A.C. Rodolfo Juan Flores  
& The Maya Conservancy © 2010

Photos: Rodolfo Juan Huerta & C. Norman

Power Point: Garth & Cheryl Norman

After 1,000 years the sacred Fire Ceremony resumes at the Izapa Temple Center where the 260-day Women's Gestation Calendar originated anciently

### IZAPA

- Olmec Occupation: 1500-500 B.C.
- Izapan Occupation: 500 B.C. to 1,200 A.D.
- Location: 14.8° north lat. celebrates 260-day Zenith Sun passage (Aug 13 to April 30)

# Izapa Group F - oriented north to Tacana



# Mayan Elders prepare Fire Ceremony Altar



# School children watch the two hour Ceremony quietly



# Incense burner to carry prayers to heaven



# The Fire Ceremony is dedicated to wise Ancestors & the Family Tree of Life



White (north) & yellow (south) candles & incense offerings were given to everyone.



# School children are given incense offerings



A conch horn is blown four times before praying to the four cardinal directions.



All kneel to pray facing east.



# Prayers Facing West



# Prayers Facing North



# Prayers Facing South



The Altar is prepared with flowers, candles, incense & corn.







Women officiate in the Fire Ceremony at the time of the approaching Winter Solstice—midpoint of the Izapa 260-day zenith gestation cycle (between Aug. 13 & April 30).



260-day ritual = 65 days counted (east)  
& all 4 quarters (east, north, west, south)





Naming  
65 Maya days  
during  
prayers on  
the north



65 day  
count  
on the  
west  
during  
prayers

65 day-count  
on the  
south  
during  
prayers



# Prayer offerings are put into the Fire



# Women dance around the Fire Altar



# Men dance around the Fire Altar



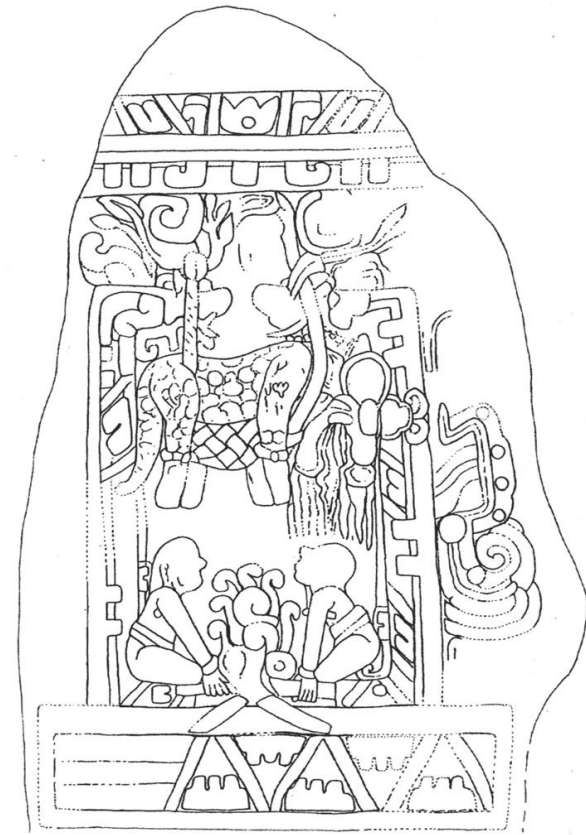
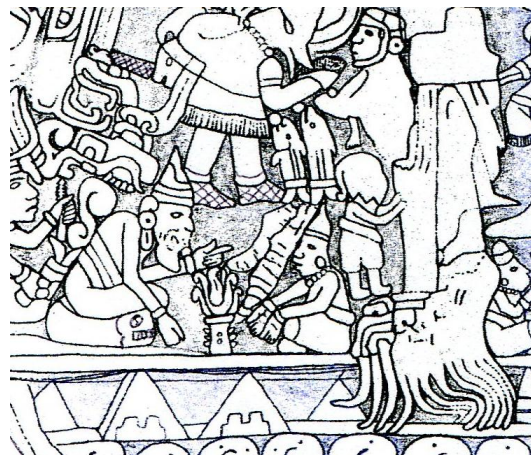




Question: “What will happen to the earth in December 2012?”

Answer: Mayan Elder Rigoberto Itzep Chanchavac:  
*“The solutions to world problems are in the hands of the people--if we live in harmony with the Great Creator God and strive together to find solutions to world problems, we can create peace for the new era that begins in 2012.”*

The Maya Fire Ceremony is depicted on Izapa stelae (from 300 B.C.). Smoke carries prayers to heaven (Stelae 18, 5, 12).





After the  
Ceremony  
Izapa  
Archaeologist  
Garth Norman  
autographs  
the booklet:  
*Izapa*  
*Self-Guided*  
*Tour Book*

