



**I**n the darkness and chill of a Judean night, the pure light, the One whose “holy face [shone] with the dawn of redeeming grace,” was born. It was a less than spectacular start for the Man that would tear humankind from eternal destruction. Angels appeared, and on cue proclaimed “good news of great joy had come for all people.” Soon Magi from the East appeared to bring gifts to the gurgling King. Light was everywhere, illuminating the place where God was born. Isaiah, centuries before, saw a vision of that first Christmas and wrote: *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined....For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.”* Isaiah 9:2

All babies are cute, and each of us was a baby once, but all that sweetness could not overcome our need for light. Like Jesus we were born in darkness too, but unlike Him, our darkness is sin, and we are growing better at it with practice. Only His light could offer us any relief from our sinful condition. And that Light has come, is here now, and will come again.

The trouble is, too many people do not know that Jesus was in the world, and that the world was made through him, and that He is the Light that brings enlightenment to everyone. That's the unfortunate, sad truth. A world out of alignment with its Creator can only be a world out of alignment with itself. And this sad world is precisely the world into which the Light came, to split the darkness, to turn the night into daylight. Joy to the world, The Lord is come!

THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND  
DWELT AMONG US, AND WE HAVE SEEN  
HIS GLORY, GLORY AS OF THE ONLY SON  
FROM THE FATHER, FULL OF GRACE  
AND TRUTH. JOHN 1:14



He came to His own, the apple of His eye, you and me. We are His own, freed from slavery to sin and death to live in the hope of the Gospel. He made us, He redeemed us—the question is, do we resemble Him? Do we delight in Christ and try our best to do the things we should and not those we shouldn't? Do we pray that God would raise up Bible translators and literacy specialists that will work diligently to put the Good News into the hands and hearts of those that do not have the saving Word in their heart language? Do we pray for the safety of all field missionaries, especially those whose work is difficult or dangerous? Do we speak of Christ to those who sadly do not know their Creator, knowing that in Him and Him alone is light and life? We, you and I, are the only ones who know the truth.

We at LBTC have been given the humbling task of translating God's life-giving and life-sustaining Word into all the world's languages. We want all persons to enjoy the blessings of new life in Christ, to receive Him just as we have, as pure and gracious gift. In 2013 LBTC added a new missionary family to our roster, Rev. Michael and Kara Kuhn, who are serving The Lord in Galim, Cameroon. They have responded to God's call to serve those that have not yet heard, and are making great progress. Our "elder statespersons," Martin and Joan Weber, are even now moving their Kwanja language progress closer to completion, while Eshinee and Rob Veith will soon return to Botswana after a short education furlough. These Christian brothers and sisters have travelled east and have brought with them the most perfect gift of all—God in the flesh. It's the Christmas gift that keeps on giving!

2014 is LBTC's 40th anniversary year, and we have a busy year planned. Please watch our website and your mail for LBTC events. But most of all, give thanks and praise to God for the perfect gift, the babe of Bethlehem. He is the reason we celebrate Christmas and these 40 years; it is His Word that we translate; it is He that gives light that overcomes darkness. Thanks be to God!

On behalf of the missionaries, staff, and volunteers of LBTC, may The Lord bless you in this Christmas season, and keep you in His tender-loving care in 2014.

*Rev. Dr. James Keller*

Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

Members and Friends of LBTC: Please put this on your calendar:

**April 11, 2014 - LBTC Annual Meeting and Concert**  
(FEATURING CHRISTIAN RECORDING ARTIST NAOMI STRIEMER)



From our LBTC family to yours, have wonderful season in the Son!