



The first Christmas was a miracle, in fact, several miracles. First was the miracle of *Who* came that first Christmas. Next was the miracle of *how* He came. Third was the miracle of *who it was* He came to. Last, there was the miracle of *why...why* did He come? And *how* we answer is vitally important. They are the foundation of our faith, and the reason LBTC works tirelessly to translate the Word of God into the heart languages of all people.

So what's the big deal? *Christmas is the celebration of an invasion.* About 2017 years ago God invaded the earth. It was a pretty big deal in 1969 when man walked on the moon. It was a much bigger deal when God walked on the earth—much bigger. Jesus is God incarnate, Emmanuel, God with us.

How incredible, then, that Emmanuel chose to come as a tiny baby Who grew up, lived with us, died on a cross, rose again at Easter, ascended to the Father, and lives for us. This is the first Christmas miracle: **God Himself came to earth, not in a flash of fireworks, but simply and quietly.**

Think about it: if you were God would You come to get dirty with the likes of us? Yet God thinks enough of us to come into this vale of tears just as we do, as a baby. He did this because Jesus came to save us, not to scare us. Nobody is afraid of a baby—lots of people are afraid of God. There are many unfortunates both here and abroad who get nervous and queasy if you talk about God to them. Just think how much worse this would be if God had come as thunder and lightning. Babies are softer, less threatening.

What does this mean? **God came to earth at Christmas so we can understand Him.** This is the second miracle. For 44+ years LBTC has been privileged to help make God's holy Word understandable to millions of frightened sinners around the world. When the Word is available in the heart language of many, those that hear the Good News know that God wants a relationship with us. God understands our plight because He's been there,



He's done that. He came and lived a life like ours, except without sin. He experienced real pain. Sometimes He was lonely, tired, under pressure, frightened. He was often disappointed, misunderstood, criticized, and falsely accused. He understands.

The third miracle is that God came to the wretched, the hopeless—He came to walk with us, all of us. He invites the highest and the lowest to follow Him, be they in Canada, Cameroon, anywhere where sinners in need of forgiveness reside.

And the fourth miracle? This is the greatest miracle of all—why He came. He came for our benefit, because you matter to God. Jesus said, ***“I came that they might have life, and have it to the full.”*** The greatest tragedy we can experience is to go through an entire life and have no idea of why we are here.



As the saying goes: *“If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need on earth had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an accountant. If our greatest need has been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer...But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.”* Jesus, our Saviour, stretches His arms out wide and says, *“I love you this much.”* That's the miracle of Christmas.

Thank you for your kind support of LBTC, past, present, and future. Your commitment to Bible translation has allowed us to place the Scriptures in the hands of 7 million people, and there's more to come. **The missionaries and staff of LBTC pray that Emmanuel, God with us, will bring you joy and peace this Christmas season, and beyond.**

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