

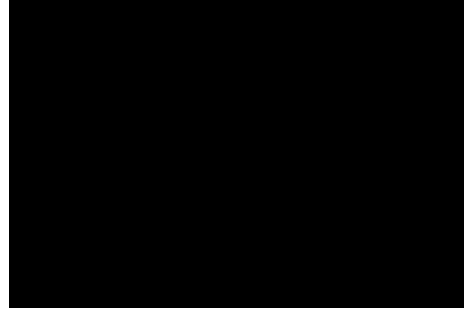
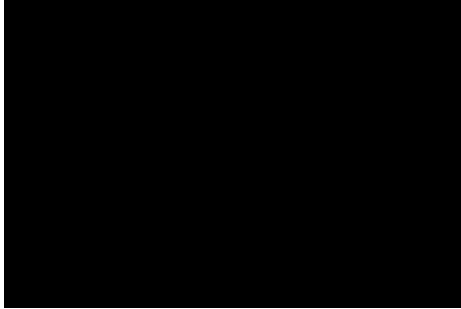
As we celebrate yet another Christmas this year, I took time to ponder on how the birth of Christ is perceived in our multicultural global society where we live in. In countries where the main stream religion is not Christianity, all Christmas may mean would be Santa and presents. It also takes an effort on our part to explain the fundamentals of the Bible story, God sending his son to die for the sins of humanity, a virgin birth, the wise men following a star, angels appearing to shepherds. Thus, everyone has his/her own perception of the Christmas story.

We come across three types of people in the Christmas story. There are those like Herod who hear of Jesus and are opposed to Him. They want to eliminate Him from their lives because He is seemingly posing a threat to them. Then there are those like the religious leaders who know about Jesus. They can even quote Bible references about Him. But they're indifferent to Him. They normally don't go out of their way to seek Him. And then there are those like the Wise Men. They responded to the light they had been given and overcame every hindrance until they found the Savior and fell at His feet in worship. William Law, an 18th century devotional writer, gives the answer: "When the first spark of a desire after God arrives in your soul, cherish it with all your care, give all your heart unto it.... Follow it as gladly as the wise men of the East followed the star from heaven that appeared to them. It will do for you as the star did for them: it will lead you to the birth of Jesus, not in a stable at Bethlehem of Judea, but to the birth of Jesus in your own soul."



Personally for me my Christmas 2018 started early December with the songs“ Immanuel Immanuel God is with us” .Our younger son Mathew did a choreography of this song for his Sunday School program this year ( video to the left, below).

*Immanuel, Immanuel God is with us  
It's the true meaning of Christmas  
Jesus has come  
And changed life forever*



Our daughter Sharon also did an “Angel dance “(video to the right, top) for her Sunday School program this year.

*The shepherds came to  
See the baby  
Stood by his mother's side  
Here laid the Savior  
Inside a manger  
Oh what a glorious night  
Oh what a glorious night*

May the Lord grant each and every one of us the grace to follow Him as the Wiseman did, and may Him be Immanuel “God with us “ in our individual and family lives as well.

**Wish every one of our family members a meaningful Christmas and a wonderful  
New Year 2019.**

