

TO MARY – LOVE FROM  
DAD

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# A troubling message

- In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

- "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

# A life in turmoil

- Mary's uncertain future
- Mandela in Robben Island
- Paul chained between soldiers
- My sickness in 1997
- You now.....?

# A joyful visit

- At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

# A glorious song

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God  
my Saviour,

for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me--  
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from  
generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost  
thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but  
has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering  
to be merciful

to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
even as he said to our fathers."

# Magnificat

- **Love:** *My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,*
- **Gratitude:** *For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name.*

- **Faith:**

*His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.*

*He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts*

*He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.*

- (Translation from “the Message”) *He bared his arm and showed his strength, scattered the bluffing braggarts. He knocked tyrants off their horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold.*
- **Hope:** *He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.*

- **Prophecy: 30 years later....**

*Jesus said “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”*

# God's resolution

- Mandela: “freedom for the prisoner”  
leading to “release of the oppressed”
- Paul: “preaching good news to the poor”
- Myself: “recovery of sight for the blind”
- And you.....?

# Mary's message

- No “patent remedy” but...
- Hold onto God's promises and worship him
- Seek support from one you love
- Trust in a God who works in tough situations
- Believe that Jesus is still working today, through the Holy Spirit
- Consider the Magnificat's themes – love – gratitude – faith - hope