



"The Lord is with you."

Gabriel Visits Mary - Luke 1:28-31

Granny B walked out onto the porch carrying a tray of Christmas cookies which had were still warm from the oven. Pops followed behind her carrying a pitcher of milk and four glasses. Delbert and Lello were already waiting on the porch. The previous week, Granny B had explained her Christmas Candles to Delbert and Lello. She had invited them to come back to light the second candle. Delbert and Lello were excited to light the next candle and to learn about its story.

"Cookies!" Delbert and Lello yelled when they saw Granny B and Pops. Granny B and Pops laughed, as they set the goodies down on the table. Delbert and Lello ran over and helped themselves to cookies while Pops poured the milk.

"Do you two remember why we light the Christmas Candles?" Granny B asked, as she sat down. Delbert and Lello looked at each other and shook their heads no. "We light the Christmas Candles to get our hearts ready for Christmas," Granny B reminded them.

"Haw! That's right. Granny B can we light the next candle now?" Delbert asked.

"Of course, we can. Pops would you mind lighting the candle?" Granny B asked. Pops walked over to the wreath and lit the first two candles.

Lello moved closer to Granny B. "Granny B, can you tell us about the second Christmas Candle?"

"I'd love to. The second candle is Mary's candle," Granny B began.

"Jesus' mommy?" Lello asked.

Granny B nodded. "Mary's candle reminds us of when an angel came to visit her."

Delbert looked amazed. "Mary saw an angel, too? Just like Zechariah? Wow! I wonder if I'll ever see an angel," he said.

Lello nuzzled in closer to Granny B and asked, "What did the angel say to Mary?"

"The angel told Mary that God was very happy with her and that she was going to have a baby," Granny B replied.

"Haw! I know who that baby was. He was Jesus!" Delbert added excitedly.

"That's right, Delbert," Pops said. "Are you getting excited about Christmas?"

"I can't wait! My cousins are coming to visit and I've been helping my daddy and mommy get things ready," Delbert replied.

"Spending time with family is a wonderful part of Christmas," Pops said. "Lello, I hear your favorite part of Christmas is giving your mom a gift. Do you know what you are going to give her?"

Lello shook her head no. "Not yet, but Delbert helped me make a list of ideas. Now, I just have to pick one," she replied.

"I'm sure you'll think of something soon and your mom will love it," Granny B said as she rubbed behind Lello's ears. Granny B, Pops, Delbert, and Lello sat on the porch enjoying the cookies, admiring the Christmas Candles, and talking about Christmas.