

# A Reflection

By Renée Anderson

Cookies, decorating, shopping, gift giving and receiving, and singing praises and lullabies of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ through carols and hymns. These are some of the things that should not change.

I decided I would do my best to keep the tradition of putting up the tree and turning on those glorious lights and admire all the ornaments that have been accumulating over the years, and the addition of the new ones to fill in my imperfect tree. While decorating, I was going to play my Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers CD I received as a gift last year, but enjoyed the silence instead, and in the silence, there was time to reflect. When the tree was decorated, I then played the CD. At this time, I could focus on the words to the songs, touching my heart, giving me hope. Yes, even with Kenny and Dolly!

As the days passed and my daily Bible readings took on a life of their own, I felt compelled to read the Mary Story, often called the Magnificat. I knew I wanted to write this article, but didn't know what direction it would take. I gave it time to nurture, although I don't know if I have given it enough time! Magnificat. Magnificat. What glorious words the Magnificat holds which make my heart flutter. I love the story of Jesus in those early days. A true testament that miracles can happen at most any age. Just think, this girl of sixteen years gets a visit from an angel that tells her she will be the mother of a saviour. Wow. And to think she just didn't hesitate--maybe thinking "Ok... you've picked me...so I'll do it!"

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

Spiritual words for us all. What meaning does it have for you?

God is with us all. He says so over and over in the Bible. He will never leave us. During this Christmas season, we may do things differently, as they say, but our faith can help us to hold on to the hope, peace, joy, and love...in God and each other.

*"...for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."*

How excellent are these words! We should always give thanks to God, for he has given us all things. He created us and we should feel blessed and thankful for who we are. Each one of us is a gift from God and we can offer the gifts He gave us, to others.

So maybe I will continue to reflect on the Magnificat (Luke 1:47-55) and write to you next week. If my heart continues to flutter, maybe the magic of the words will give me something more to write about.

Have a lovely week.