The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. (Matthew 1: 23)

Prophesied by Isaiah in the Old Testament, and reiterated by Matthew in the New Testament is this matter of fact statement that the virgin will conceive and bear a son. As we know, that son was none other than Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth and the Christ of God.

How scary it must have been for Mary and Joseph, both of whom would have denied having had sexual intercourse with each other. How confusing for Joseph who knew he had no part in the pregnancy, yet he trusted his wife-to-be when she made it clear that she had not had sex with a third party. Yet, the reality is that Mary was pregnant. It would have been the talk of the town, with gossips and sandal mongers having a ball.

Yet the wonderful thing is that in spite of all her doubts, fears, and confusion, Mary said "Yes" to God, and she went on to give birth to Jesus. And Joseph, despite how he felt, supported her.

Thus it was that Jesus was born, and the Word became flesh.

PRAYER
Father God,

Thank you that by Mary saying, "Yes" to you,
the Saviour of the world was born.

Thank you that Joseph, in spite of what he felt,
continued to support Mary,
even when her version of events seemed implausible.

Thank you that when I face difficult,
or seemingly impossible situations,
you stand ready to intervene
and to help.

May it be when you ask something of me
that I will be like Mary,
ready to listen, to hear, and to act,
ready to say, "Yes".

I pray in the name of Jesus. AMEN