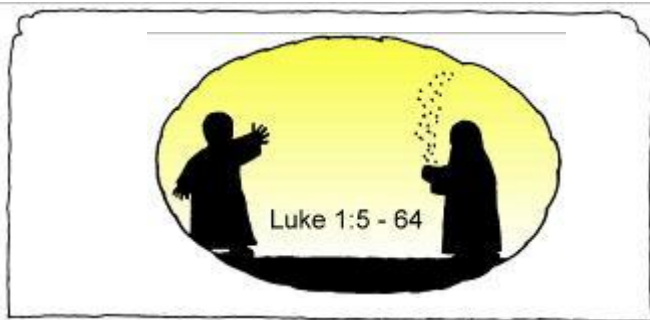


# ZACHARIAS can't talk

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By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther



For a long time people had been waiting for God's promised Son. God sent John the Baptist to tell everyone that He was coming soon.



Zacharias was a good man. He loved to pray as he helped in the temple at Jerusalem, but he was sad because he had no children.



One day, while he was busy in the temple, the angel Gabriel suddenly appeared in front of him, with a message from God.



"You and your wife Elisabeth will soon have a baby boy. You must call him John," said the angel. "This can't be true," said Zacharias.



"We are too old to have a child." "To show that God sent me," said the angel, "You will not be able to talk until the baby is named John."



When Elisabeth was six months pregnant her cousin Mary came to visit her. As Mary called out, Elisabeth's baby, in her tummy, was so happy he began to jump.



And, just as the angel had said, Zacharias could not talk until after his baby was born. "His name is John," said Zacharias.



Zacharias and Elisabeth's baby, was Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, who came to tell everyone to get ready because God's Son was coming soon.