



Through His great love, our gracious God sent the angel Gabriel to some lowly shepherds living out in the fields around Bethlehem. I wonder how long you've known of the "Good news of great joy" that the angel brought? I wonder whether you've had this good news with you all your life? I wonder if you first heard it as a small child when traditional Bible-based Nativities were an essential and much-loved part of every Christmas celebration. The world has changed. Many of the children BSYW reach out to are hearing the good news of Jesus for the very first time. We thank you wholeheartedly for playing your part in helping BSYW, "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord." Psalm 78:4

Jesus is the Light of the world. Jesus brings hope, love, comfort and His peace to all who put their trust in Him. Jesus is the true joy of Christmas and the greatest gift anyone has ever received. We give thanks for all of the doors the Lord opens for us, and prayerfully step through them.

Please pray for the 420 Year 5 children who have shared our Christmas workshops about Jesus the promised Messiah. We added a creative response component this year, and the children have enjoyed learning new songs and creating beautiful wall displays about Jesus the Light of

the world. It's exciting to note that all 420 children have been learning John 3:16, and we've had some wonderful discussions about the meaning of this precious verse.

We also managed to squeeze in 3 Advent assemblies, reaching 580 children from non-church schools. Praise God, these were filled with joyful singing and we left encouraging the children to look for reminders of Jesus in the world around them this CHRISTmas. We pray they will remember Him when they see the lights in the darkness, the stars, the angels and the presents.

Our team of volunteers are simply amazing! They are so dedicated and passionate in their desire to share Jesus through our interactive and immersive Christmas Journey.

Praise God, over 950 local children have shared this experience with us this year. It's so precious as it's all about the Christ, our Saviour, Jesus. The interactive journey focusses on the Nativity and the children explore the scenes and 'meet the people' from the Gospel accounts. The experience is made all the more meaningful as we follow Jesus from Creation, through His miraculous birth on earth, His life, death, resurrection and, what all this means for us today. It is the Gospel and so full of wonder.

The teachers love this experience too and, praise God, we've had lovely feedback again this year:

*“The Year 2 children really enjoyed the 'Christmas Journey . (the) Year 2 teacher, said it was brilliant! Thank you so much to you and your amazing volunteers for bringing the Christmas Story to life”.*

*“Just wanted to say thank you so much for coming along this afternoon. The children absolutely loved it and went back into class so excited! What a great group your are. We love having you come to us”.*

*“They loved exploring the different settings from the story —...the journey to Bethlehem — and brought it all to life through hands-on activities. The highlight of the day was seeing the children dress up as the wise men — so many smiles and excited faces!”*

*“The work you do in schools is truly amazing and we value every visit that you make to us”.*

*“The Christmas Journey was absolutely amazing. The children loved it and haven't stopped talking about it since. It is fast becoming one of the highlights of the school Calendar”.*

In the words of the lovely hymn by Fanny Crosby,

*“To God be the glory, great things He hath done,  
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in”.*

It is His light we pray we will reflect. It is His comfort and joy we pray we will leave with the children and staff. It is all through Him, and we praise Him for all He *has* done, *is* doing and *will* do. Happy CHRISTmas. Rejoice in the Good News of great joy.

With grateful thanks for **ALL** you do to support BSYW throughout the year,

***Helen Lewis***

***BSYW Charity Director***