

QUOTES TO MAKE YOU SMILE AND GLADDEN YOUR HEARTS

"Most jobs after 20+ years have the tendency to become a little "samey!" or dare I say it even a little boring. Not so my "job!" from someone involved since the beginning of Ice Wales.

After an assembly when I got a little carried away portraying the Prodigal Son, I was told I'd missed my vocation. I thought "No. This is my vocation". I feel that all my whole life has been leading up to serving the Lord with ICE WALES. What a privilege. Another volunteer

Doing a recap of last week's story

"Where was Paul going when he was blinded by a great light?"

Answer: "Mexico"

"Not quite. Try again. It starts with D"

Child: "Derusalem"

A child, after hearing the story of the sower, exclaimed *"we are like good soil because we are learning about Jesus and learning to love him"*

Lunchtime supervisor whilst clearing the hall before BX OT session (each week for 5 weeks)

Wk 1 *"Ooh that looks interesting (big bag of stuffed animals for Creation story). Let me guess what story you're teaching."*

Wk 2 *"I recognise that!" (Ark of the Covenant)*

Where can I find that story in the Bible?"

Wk 3 *"Now you've got me there! Haven't a clue what all these are for!" (Army hat, long red thread, 12 large stones - Joshua). You get the picture, it's never just the children!*

In an assembly we were telling/acting the story of the prodigal son. Children volunteers were playing the friends when he had a lot of money -. but then took the last of his money and ran away across the hall. Peter - as the prodigal son said, *"Where has all my money gone?"* A large group of children in the audience- pointing to the ones who had run away - called out *"They took it and they ran over there!"*. Group involvement indeed.

At school a year 6 girl said that she would like a Bible but her Mum wasn't keen on her having one. We asked her to ask her Mum if she could and the response was that she could have a Bible but must keep it in school. We spoke to the Head and explained the situation and left a modern translation New Testament with the Head for her to give to the girl to read in school.

How we need to remember to pray for the families of the children we teach

OTHER WORK

OT MINI and NT MINI (formerly known as Bible Explorer) continue to be very popular with the schools. 19 OT and 15 NT mini sessions have been delivered.

18 schools have received fortnightly or monthly assemblies

Harvest, Christmas and Easter and other workshops have been delivered either in school or in local churches

5 YouTube videos have been sent into schools to celebrate special occasions such as, Remembrance Day and the Coronation. A YouTube assembly based on Mental Health Day was very greatly welcomed by the schools

Prayer meeting:

First Thursday of each month at Bethesda or Zoom during winter time.

ICE WALES

Initiatives in Christian Education

SERVING SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES THROUGHOUT WALES

"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty. They will tell of the power of your awesome works. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness"

Psalm 145



This intergenerational work has been the focus of ICE WALES for over 20 years and with God's grace and provision will continue to be so for many years. With the worrying new curriculum in schools, reflecting a society that is moving far from an acknowledgment of God, the need for Christian input is greater than ever. Could you play a part in this work? If so, please get in touch.

VILLAGE SCHOOL PROJECT NEWS

Over the past year the Village Schools Project, funded jointly by ICE Wales and Village Hope, has worked regularly in 12 rural schools, delivering a mix of assemblies, RE workshops, Storytimes and clubs. Some days it's lovely to drive to schools where

you see the beauty of God's natural creation all around: winter can be tricky, however, as I discovered one day, completely stuck on the ice in a hilly narrow lane with an assembly due in 15 minutes! Praise God for local volunteers, who have stepped up and done a wonderful job in schools this past year. The children continue to respond with enthusiasm, keen to join in and explore stories from the Bible. Please pray that they come to know the God we serve and speak of.

We are very grateful to Laura Toomer for her work in the Village school project. This project has now come to an end and Laura is leaving us to work as a Community and Outreach lay worker in the Forest of Dean. We pray that God will bless her and the work she does there.

Contact Chris to find out more



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NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF



Hello, I'm **Steph** and I'll be joining the team from **September** based in primary schools in Abergavenny. I am a member of Cornerstone church in Abergavenny and also lead a monthly all age service in Monmouth.

My background is in environmental education and I worked in Pembrokeshire for 4 years at a residential field centre. There I taught biology and geography to school groups. Before this I lived and worked in the Cayman Islands leading snorkel tours on coral reefs and kayak trips in the mangroves.

I have been a Christian for as long as I can remember but my faith really grew while living in Cayman and being an active member of a lively Caribbean church family. From Sunday services to Alpha courses and a line dancing group they taught me how joyful and exciting worship could be. I have continued to study God's word and grow in faith through the years and am excited for the opportunity to join the ICE team and share the good news of Jesus with children in Abergavenny.



Hello, my name is **Rachel Meates**. I have worked in a primary school and have shared Jesus with children in my church for many years. I am a wife and mum to two grown up children. I am very excited and a little bit nervous about coming to work for ICE Wales. I am thankful for the privilege of having been given this amazing opportunity to share Jesus with the boys and girls in our schools. I am sure God will bless this new venture and prepare the way ahead for more children to hear his Word.

NEW VOLUNTEER

Hi! My name is **David Kemp** and my experience in school education finished 57 years ago. So, why would I head back to school at 73?

In the Autumn of 2022, I was encouraged to attend the ICE Wales 'Thanksgiving Service' at Bethesda.

From my teens through to 1989 I had been actively involved in children's ministry. In 1989 I found that my, until then, continuous inspiration came to an end, I saw this as God closing this chapter. However, more recently God had opened my eyes to the power of storytelling. At the end of the 'Thanksgiving Service', I sensed that I should make myself available to ICE Wales in any way they felt I could serve.

I was invited to observe an assembly at Tredegar Park Primary School and later on to observe story telling at Ty Isaf Infant School with Helen. Opportunities followed to cover volunteers, when they were unavailable, with Chris Powell and when Ty-Sign Primary School opened up for morning assemblies I became part of Chris Thomas's team. So far, I have been involved in eleven Bible stories.

I really appreciate the support that I have received from leaders and team members in helping me to fit in and feel comfortable with school protocol. I find the preparation meeting, a few days before the assemblies very helpful, as we consider how the story from the 'Story Teller Bible' can be best presented. I have found the children's level of recall of the stories and their awareness that the source of all the stories is the Bible very encouraging. The welcome from the school staff is always warm. It is an honour and a joy to be a part of this opportunity to sow seeds in the hearts of children and staff.

The prayer meetings have been a great source of understanding of all that ICE WALES is involved with and to share together in thanksgiving and prayer is a blessing.



LIFE EXHIBITION June 2023

An academic year which includes a visit from The Life Exhibition is particularly special.

Any opportunity to share the Good News of the Lord Jesus is special but having regular contact with local schools throughout the year makes talking about a future event even more exciting.

I was privileged to have presented Bible Explorer OT at both Malpas Park and Malpas Church in Wales Primary Schools prior to the LIFE EXPO being held at Malpas Road Evangelical Church (MREC) and was able to link the end of the BX sessions with what the children would be experiencing a few months later at the Exhibition.

Being able to welcome familiar classes off the coaches as they arrive at the church is such a blessing

OPEN AIR MISSION

March 2023 was a busy month for presenting the Life of Jesus exhibition in Tredegar and Cwm. It was well received. Approximately 450 children took part. We helped at the same exhibition in June in Maesycwmmmer and Ystrad Mynach, where schools were invited to local churches.

CLUBS

Kath (Kemp) and I are thrilled to have eventually been able to restart the lunchtime Discovery Club at St Woolos Primary School after a long hiatus mainly due to Covid. It continues to be an absolute joy to meet each week with mainly girls



from "other faith" backgrounds and share with them what The Bible teaches. Just recently Kath was at a new hotel in Newport. She

"please never, never stop it. It was so important in my life"

recognised the receptionist who also seemed to recognise her. The young lady turned out to be a former pupil of St Woolos School who had regularly attended the Discovery Club. On hearing the club was still running, she exclaimed "please never, never stop it. It was so important in my life". What an encouragement for Kath and Amanda as they carry on after 20 plus years.

Bible Discovery Clubs have also been running in Merthyr since 2001. They are held in Dowlais Primary School and Gellifaelog Primary School. Numbers vary but we faithfully teach from The Mayflower Bible lessons. It is a great privilege to be involved with these children who are from varying backgrounds but who all need to know that Jesus loves them. We pray that the work of Ice Wales will continue to reach a generation in which, as the children grow up, they will face far more difficulties than we have ever had to experience.

The club at Waunfawr is called "Treasure Seekers". The school is very welcoming and supportive. The children can be very lively and keep us on our toes. To keep their interest, we support the Bible teaching with various crafts and activities, which the

children then store in their personal folders. This has given them a sense of ownership and works well.

The children are so artistic and individual and show us how God has made us all unique.

We both thank God for these lovely children and pray he will continue to guide us for the new term in September.

The weekly Bible Discovery Club at Deighton Primary School, Tredegar, is still running. It is attended by year 2 & 3 children. Stories, crafts and games are enjoyed by all. The teachers have told us that Bible club is the top favourite with the pupils. Some of the teachers would like to see us back into the individual classrooms giving Bible stories and teaching Junior hymns. They are hoping it may be allowed next year.

Bible Lego Club has been very popular this year. Can you guess which stories are illustrated in these photos?



BIBLE STORY TIME

This has been a new venture with Phase 1 children. It has proved very popular with schools and enjoyed by our volunteers, children and staff alike.

Bible storytelling continues at Cwm Primary for year 1 & 2. The children enjoy dressing up and singing. There is always a warm welcome for us.

"As a Christian parent I can't thank ICE WALES enough for bringing the story of the Bible and the love of Jesus into my daughter's school."

One volunteer says story time for her is so rewarding. The children's faces as they learn of the great stories of the OT are a joy to behold.

One child who obviously attends church was delighted to be told one story she had never heard before. After all we don't often go into David's kindness to Mephibosheth!!

Coming into one class one afternoon I was told they had a surprise for me. They didn't know which story I would be telling and it 'happened' to be the story of Joseph. There were some good questions and then the surprise as one of the girls sang a song she had recently learnt - from Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat! God putting those two things together, reinforcing the message for the children, was a lovely encouragement.

A dad's view of story time.

I'd not heard much from my daughter about story time until we bumped into Helen. My presence was soon forgotten as the two of them recalled the stories that had been covered in school. Evie remembered more than I could have imagined, recalling the drama and crafts that followed these biblical tales.

Since that chance encounter I realised that I hadn't heard much about story time because I hadn't asked! Now I make sure to keep up to date with the latest story and find out who got to play the robber, or who climbed an imaginary tree or best of all who played the lost sheep.

As a Christian parent I can't thank ICE WALES enough for bringing the story of the Bible and the love of Jesus into my daughter's school.