

Of course, He didn't stay a baby in a manger. Despite His life of love and kindness, miracles and perfection, dark forces did their worst and crucified Him.



While He was suffering on the cross, a deep darkness covered the earth as Jesus carried the sin of the world. Though it was the middle of the day, for three hours the earth remained dark as Jesus paid the penalty of our rebellion against the God who made us.

## Jesus, the Light of the World

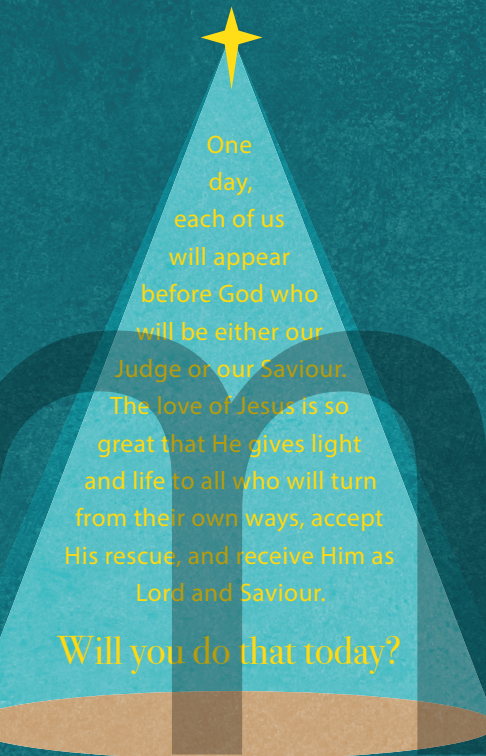
The trapped miners would have been ecstatic when they saw the glimmer

of light and were saved. Millions more who have put their trust in Jesus, the Light of the World, have found an even greater salvation. Not even the star guiding the wise men or the angels announcing Jesus' birth to the Bethlehem shepherds, can outshine the light and life which Jesus gives to all who trust and follow Him.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, lived a pure, honest life, died carrying our sin, then three days later rose from the dead, and is now alive and reigning in heaven. Today He says to us all, "Come to Me" and find forgiveness for the past, help for the present, and the promise of being with Him for ever when we die. Peace and light come through knowing the Jesus whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

Jesus said:

*"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."*



Ask Him to take you as you are, and bring you to know Him in life, death and throughout eternity.

Image credit: Park Slip Colliery by Unknown author, Public Domain



To find out more about Jesus Christ please visit:  
**tell-me-more.org**

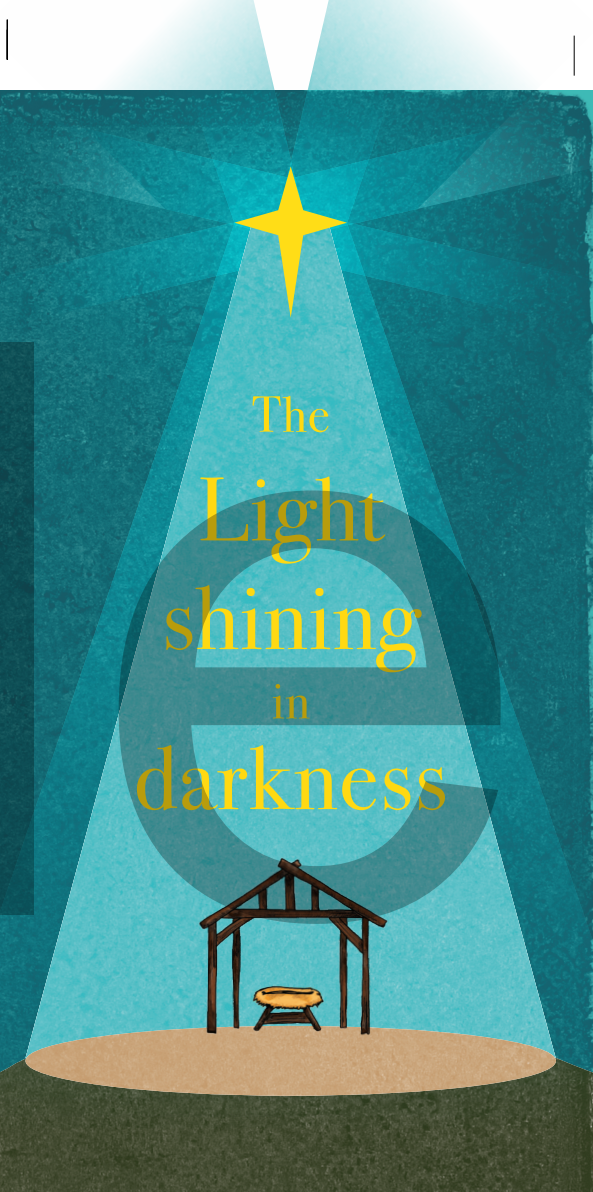
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On Friday 26 August 1892, 146 men and boys lit their Davey lamps and headed down into the gloom of the Park Slip Colliery in Bridgend, South Wales.

At 8.20am, a little spark from a faulty lamp ignited a huge explosion in the

coal mine resulting in the deaths of 112 men along with 16 horses. Some died instantly while others died later as a result of their injuries. A number of miners were totally trapped in the dark. Outside, the rescue mission began.

The trapped men could do nothing to get themselves out, though they tried to scrape away at the rubble.

They carefully used some of the air to cry out, hoping for a glimmer of light. Hours passed.

As the mine was searched, a whisper was heard by one of the rescue team who made a little hole with his pick allowing a tiny shaft of light to shine through to some of the trapped miners. Hope was alive again for these men. When eventually the rescuer put his hand through the gap he had created, it was eagerly grabbed.

By midnight Saturday the rescue mission was over.

Centuries before, what seemed like just a small act of defiance against God sparked the greatest disaster creation has known. Instead of living as God intended, our first ancestors deliberately chose to discover evil, trapping us all in deep darkness.

And the world can seem very dark at times can't it ... and so can our lives. Wrongdoing blights us. We find ourselves

wondering about the point of it all. Hope can seem very far away. Deep down we know life is not just about food and holidays, fun and laughter, because other realities like unemployment, illness and death hit us hard.

We talk about "hell on earth" and fear what's beyond the grave. We say "I'm okay", but often we know we're not.

## Light in the Darkness

Yet at Christmas we remember the Bethlehem baby who:

*"Through the tender mercy of our God ...  
[gives] light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,  
To guide our feet into the way of peace."*

The Christmas child is our Creator God coming into the very world that turned from Him. One carol says:

*"Low within a manger lies,  
He who made the starry skies."*

The Bible says:

*"For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder,  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

Jesus came from heaven to rescue us from our darkness. He came to purchase our forgiveness and bring us to know the peace of God in our lives.

*"Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this."*



Contemporary engraving of the colliery entrance in 1892