Written by Debbie Gregory
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Thirteen-year-old Lucas Keith Bilbrey's life may have been short here on earth, but it was time well spent.

As students at Macon County Junior High School reflected on their classmate, a tree was planted in his memory on Monday morning, May 21st by the Interact kids. God's mercy is a well that never runs dry, and I could sense a whispered plea from his family to understand the loss of their young son, but the Lord always brings comfort even in our darkest hour.

Every life matters, whether brief or long, for we are all His children, and young Lucas sparkled like a diamond in the eyes of our Heavenly Father. The teenagers' parents, Terry and Leanne Copas Bilbrey, were welcomed with open arms at the tree planting ceremony and I was impressed by the outpouring of love for the sweet little boy who loved books, sports, animals and the Tennessee Titans.

Lucas loved people and cared about the feelings of others, and he was an angel that walked among us. His gentle spirit was comforting and he will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. God knows the path that's best for all of us, and he will guide those closest to Lucas through the stormy days ahead. Life's roads can sometimes seem quite rugged but the junior high students seemed to help carry the heavy cross, making Terry, Leanne and son, Jacob's burden much lighter.

Taylor Shoulders welcomed everyone to the tree planting ceremony, offering a special welcome to his parents. The 8th grade class also has a plaque in memory of Lucas that will hang in the Junior High library. “Lucas was truly a super young man and will be missed by everyone,” said Taylor.

Lucas was born of Friday, May 29, 1998 and died on Friday, April 6th, 2012 at the tender age of 13. He is buried in the Sunrise Cemetery.