

Put Joy Back in Bible Study!

“Picture This!” Prayerline

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Those of you acquainted with The Picture-Smart Bible are also familiar with the Good News Starburst. This symbol, which is a reference to Jesus- is in every book of TPSB Old Testament. At first the symbol was just another feature; primarily our attempt to bring some levity to the doom and gloom of prophetic messages. However, as we were considering TPSB, God strongly impressed us that the symbol was far more than that. Highlighting Jesus was to be a major feature of each Old Testament book. This impression is validated by Luke’s words: “Beginning with Moses and all of the prophets, He (Jesus) expounded to them in all of the Scriptures the things concerning Himself” (1).



Today, many people all over the world, are experiencing anything but “good news”. Greed has caused an economic collapse. Thousands have lost everything they own. Add to that- on going floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, oil spills, acts of terrorism, threats of a nuclear war and we have a world on the brink of disaster. Many wonder- is this indeed the last days? Only God knows, but we must look again at His Good News. His good news is:

Revealed in our Darkest Hour. Adam and Eve experienced the sorrow of a **foreclosure** centuries ago when they were evicted from the Garden of Eden. But God immediately announced good news (first Starburst in TPSB): someday the seed of the woman (Jesus) will “crush Satan under your feet” (2). In the middle of Israel’s darkest hour, most likely during the time of Ehud (3) is the story of Ruth; a love story not only between a man and a woman, but also between God and His people. Ruth is a picture of us: helpless and homeless. Boaz, a type of Christ, gave her total covering and protection.

Based on a Promise. The prophets in the Old Testament lived a hard life. If they didn’t warn of the impending doom, God required their blood. If they did warn, often they were imprisoned, tortured, even killed. The prophet Joel reported to leaders that they were about to experience the worst

natural disaster in the history of mankind. On top of that, **foreign armies were going to invade** “the like of whom has never been”. Yet Joel also records a great promise: “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh” (4). God did- and now, following Jesus is the most exciting life possible!

Real. For those who have accepted Jesus, despair may come for a moment, but it will not find a home. That is why the apostle Paul, “beaten with stripes above measure, stoned, threatened, often hungry and thirsty (5), could write from prison, “Rejoice and again I say, rejoice”. He pressed on to a **reality** far greater than the momentary pain- nothing less than knowing Jesus (6). **His presence alone brings real good news.**

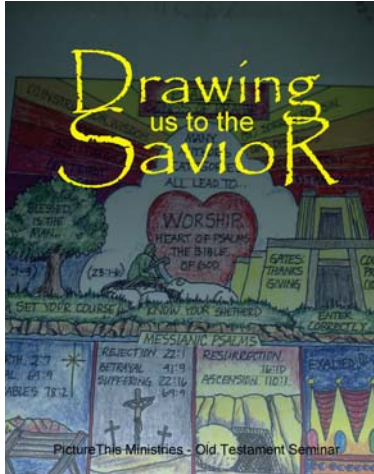
Now. We subscribe to a periodical called, “Voices of the Martyrs”. This magazine reports news about Christians who are tortured for Christ everyday, all over the world. Yet, from all reports, these men and women give their lives joyfully, because **the good news is a living reality.** Most of us in America “have not resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin” (7). As the world continues to deteriorate, our “suffering” may increase. **Because of Jesus, Good News is (always) NOW!**

Ref: 1-Lk. 24:27, 2-Gen. 3:15, Rom 16:20, 3-Judges 3:2, 4- Joel 1:1-4, 2:21-2, 28, 5-II Cor. 11:23-28, 6-Phil. 3:10, 4:4, 7--Heb. 12:4

THE GOOD NEWS IS NOW!

Good News in Arizona

This week we received an invitation to present a weekend seminar (and Sunday morning ministry) at a church in Kingsman, Arizona. The minister chose the title: "Drawing us to the Savior" (see inset), and nothing could have delighted us more. As mentioned in the lead article, God has made it clear, the "Good News Starburst" is to help us stay focused on Jesus whether we are in the Old or New Testament. This seminar is another answer to prayer. Dates are in the Prayer Box.



Endorsements Grow

East Coast- Carol Barnier: "This (TPSB) is an idea I've longed to see produced. I know the value of child-produced visuals in impacting long term memory. I'm very pleased that someone has taken this on."

West Coast- Kathy Duffy: "The Picture-Smart Bible was originally designed for a classroom ...but it has become most popular with homeschooling families who often use it with the family seated around the kitchen table. The unique aspect is that it teaches through drawing".

Florida- Hearts at Home: "This looks like a great Bible curriculum. If you allow us...we would be willing to review the entire curriculum and post a full page write up about it on our website" (we gave permission).

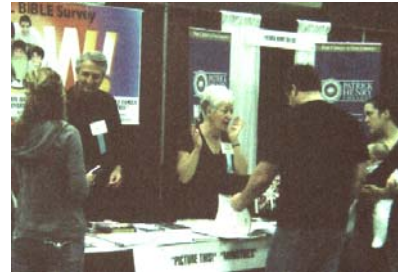
Canada- "Ladybug" Isabelle Lussier: "Pictures work in these Bible lessons (TPSB photo) because they honor the picture-smart intelligence. Using pictures is refreshing for me even though I'm not very picture smart. My comprehension of how details fit together and how Bible heroes relate improves. My ability to remember details and history is enhanced. Pictures bring things to life in new ways.

National- The National Bible Bee, well-known among homeschoolers, has become both an "endorser" and a distributor for PictureThis Ministries. They are advertising TPSB on their estore and in their national magazine. We are

linked- in promotion and in heart. Their vision: "to encourage parents as they disciple their children through in-depth **study of the Word of God, Scripture memorization, and prayer.** God is GOOD!

Good News From the Field

Oklahoma- "The PictureThis program has been such a blessing for our family! We have tried many different Bible study programs over the last 7 years. However, with most of them my children became bored very quickly and even I got tired of grading them! We wanted something that would bring the Bible to life and keep our entire family excited about learning God's word. PictureThis does just that!" DeAnn



Florida- I purchased your program five years ago at a homeschool convention in Jacksonville. I have loved it ever since!! My last

homeschooler, 7th grade boy, just reminded me that we hadn't done one of the books since Christmas ...imagine that - my athletic, hunter-gatherer son asking to not only study the Bible, but to draw and be artistic while he is doing it! Thank you so much for making our Bible study time fun, fresh, exciting, and challenging as we learn about God's plan for our lives!" Barbara

Hawaii- "We are rated among the top five churches in America with 11,000 in just our Farrington campus alone. Many of our members are not grounded in the word of God, so your materials are a blessing to us. I received your books today. Wow is all I can say! The Spirit of God must be directing both of us. I go to China again in September and October and will share your vision there. Who would have thought I'd

PRAYER BOX

The advances recounted on this page are the result of 2 things: You prayed, God answered. We are recipients of His amazing grace.

1. **Arizona Ministry** (11/19-20) We will be teaching TPSB as a weekend seminar for the first time in Arizona. We **NEED** Him- in preparation & delivery.
2. **2011 Planning**. Fall months are our heaviest planning time- requiring both time & resources. We **NEED** Him.
3. **Our Team**: Jeff (design/production), Nancy (web mgr), Julie, Doreen, Michele, Rebecca (reps), Juanene & Dan.

*We appreciate you &
your prayers so much.*

be teaching a signing class, prison inmates and missions class using your product. Campus Crusade taught me to duplicate myself so I need 3 more copies." Victor

Convention Good News

In every newsletter published during our convention season, we list upcoming events for your prayers. In a recent article we asked you "please don't stop now". You didn't stop. Last month we finished the season and tallied the results; during one of the worst economic climates since we started this ministry, we finished the convention season setting a record in convention sales. THAT is nothing less than a miracle of God!