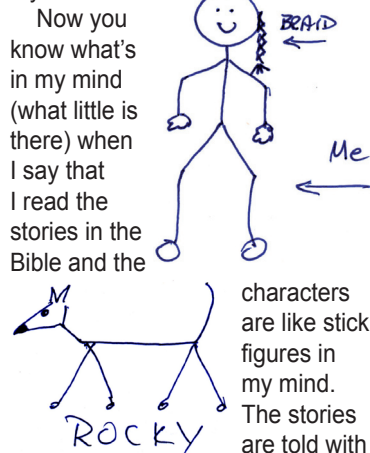


STICK FIGURES

Some people can draw or paint artistically, realistically, and pleasantly. I cannot. I am a doofus when it comes to any sort of artistic rendering. The best I've ever been able to do is stick figures, and those look like I'm still in the first grade. Here is the extent of my art:



Now you know what's in my mind (what little is there) when I say that I read the stories in the Bible and the characters are like stick figures in my mind. The stories are told with a minimum of narrative, especially when it comes to the thoughts, emotions, and background stories of those involved. Then we are taught in Sunday school or from kids' Bibles or other sources the same stories over and over, using the Bible's words, so that they are imprinted on our minds, but with no life or color.

At our house we have looked at many Bible films to try to bring life to the stories. Some do a decent job, most are ho-hum or worse. None seem to know what to do to portray Jesus Himself, and almost all stick with the "Caucasian, blue-eyed hippie" look, long honey-brown hair (a semitic Jew looking like that??), an ankle-length white nightie, who walks around like He's in a dream, speaking in monotones, rarely smiling, never laughing. So frustrating!

And then along comes "The Chosen", a new internet television series just getting off the ground, produced by Dallas Jenkins, the son of Jerry Jenkins, who wrote the stories in the series "Left Behind" about the end times. Whether or not you have heard of "Left Behind", trust me (I'm not a used car salesman, I promise) when I tell you that "Left Behind" is a wonderful story which, if you don't take it literally, can be an inspiring experience.

When I heard that Dallas Jenkins the son had this new series

of stories based in the gospel stories of Jesus the Christ, I was intrigued, excited, and couldn't wait to see the episodes. I was not disappointed. In fact, I am so excited about what I have seen and experienced that I can't not tell you about it.

Dallas tells the story of his failure at producing faith-based conventional movies so that he had to lick his wounds and take time to ask God what he should do next. While in that soul-searching mode, he made a short 17-minute Christmas film for his church called "The Shepherd", about the shepherds to whom the angels announced the coming of Jesus. Someone liked that film so much that he posted it on Facebook (or YouTube?), and it drew a great positive response, including the attention of a faith-based film production company called VidAngel.

Long story short, "The Shepherd" became the pilot for the new series called "The Chosen", which is being privately produced using crowd-funding (whatever that is, but not GoFundMe or any other outfit like that.) The Chosen group is raising their own money to produce the series free of the influence of the mainstream entertainment industry, and they will continue as long as they can get the funds to do it. (Yes, we have contributed to the effort, especially after seeing how truly great these episodes are!)

Episodes 1-4 were released several months ago, and were available by subscription at first, but now, since it is paid for, they are free and available on YouTube, or better yet, on an app called "The Chosen", from which you can cast the episodes to your television on Chromecast, Apple TV, Amazon TV, and more. Also, for those of us simpletons who prefer it, DVD's are available for the first four episodes.

Most excitingly (yes, I really mean it!), episodes 5-8 are going to be released on Thanksgiving, first by live-stream, and

then by subscription or sale of DVD's. Anything you buy of these episodes and a few items of merchandise helps to fund future episodes to keep this wonderful thing going.

What do stick figures have to do with it? All of a sudden, instead of seeing stick figures in my mind, I can now relate to Mary Magdalene, or Simon Peter, or even Jesus Himself as PEOPLE with personality, problems, joys, laughter, argument, crises – the same life issues we all still have today. Yes, this is fictional narrative, but SO refreshing, enlivening, inspiring. Amazing!!

Some of the characters in the first four episodes are Mary Magdalene (called Lilita at first, when still possessed by seven demons); Simon Peter and his wife and Andrew his brother, who are fishermen on the Sea of Galilee; James and John, fellow fishermen and their father Zebedee; Matthew the tax collector; and Nicodemus the Pharisee who went to Jesus at night as told in the Gospel of John, chapter 3.

Maybe you yourself have read the Bible or heard the stories. Maybe not. Whichever fits you, you cannot lose by taking the time to watch these episodes. See and hear them again, for the first time. Listen to the Spirit speak to your heart. Let them move you to tears, because tears there will be, I guarantee, tears of empathy, of awe, of joy, of the reality of God's challenge to all of us.

Will we follow Him when He calls? Will we listen? The time is short. Whether the short time is your own life span reaching its end or some geopolitical event that shakes the world, it's short.

These stories should make it easier for you to get the message. Watch them. Let the Spirit speak. Decide for Him.

P.S. I hope to have DVD's of the pilot and all eight episodes available for sale here at the store in the next few weeks. We won't make anything on them. We'll just charge you what we pay for them.

Linda Gammel

TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THOSE WHO SPONSOR THIS STORE; SEE <http://thenewlight.net>

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

PEACH BRANDY

A Baptist preacher went to see a member of the community and invited him to come to Church on Sunday morning. The man was a producer of fine peach brandy and told the preacher he would love to attend his Church if the Pastor would drink some of his brandy and admit doing so in front of the congregation. The preacher agreed and drank up.

Sunday morning came and the man came to Church. The preacher recognized him from the pulpit and said: "I see Mr. Johnson is here with us this morning. I want to thank him publicly for his hospitality this week and especially for the peaches he gave me and the spirit in which they were given."

ON THE PORCHES

AT THE STORE

SAT, Nov. 30, 7A-Noon, DISPLAY OF BIBLE LITERATURE, by Jehovah's Witnesses.

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Rancho Drugs -- Tues. 11AM, **Wed. & Fri. 2PM**

ST. MARY'S VAN will NOT be here December.

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Open Mon. - Sat. 9AM - 4PM
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1PM.
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Aluminum CRV **\$1.70/lb**

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Pricing good thru December 4, 2019

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

TUES. DEC. 3, 5 PM.
at the Senior Center

• What are our priorities for 2020?
Up for discussion:

LV Community Plan; water hauling legislation; pot grows; industrial hemp permits; blight and code enforcement; crime; status of parolee "motel" in town; water issues and future implications; future of the BMX track; how best to utilize the Community Center; LV Museum projects; County's short-term rental ordinance; 'Ride in the Rocks' fund raiser for schools; new school dist. foundation; updates from realtors about residential and commercial properties; status of medical clinic; road projects; etc.
Plus ideas from members.

Lucerne Valley Market will provide light snacks. Bring desserts if you want, they will be appreciated.
LV books for sale.

Photos with Santa Saturday, Dec. 14, 1PM to 3PM at Lucerne Valley Market & Hardware. Photos will be available the following day (the printer is too slow). Sponsored by the L.V. Roadrunners and L.V. Market & Hardware. No charge for photos.

L.V. School Board Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 12, starts at 5:30PM.
At the Alternative Education Center, 8560 Alianto Rd up Highway 18.

HOURS

Sunday thru Wednesday
6A TO 9P

Thanksgiving Day
6A TO 1P

Friday & Saturday
6A TO 10P

LIMITS & MULTIPLE PRICING

Please, unless otherwise indicated, **ON AD ITEMS NO MORE THAN 6 TOTAL** (including all flavors or varieties) **OF ANY ITEM, PER FAMILY, DURING THE AD PERIOD, AT THE SALE PRICE**, except in produce and meat, which are limited to normal retail quantities, or which carry limits specifically stated. Sorry, we must reserve the right to further limit or refuse sales.
ON MULTIPLE PRICING, when purchasing items in quantities more or less than the multiple stated, the register is built automatically to charge the "each" price times the quantity. (Example: Price of item is 3/\$1. The price of: one = 34¢, two = 68¢; three = \$1, four = \$1.34, five = \$1.68, six = \$2.00).