



Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture



Use “The Scene” to introduce *High School Bible school Lesson 8*.

“Man hasn’t made a word yet to describe how I feel,” Margaret Scruggs said. What prompted such an emotional response? Nothing more than a coat of paint supplied by volunteers of the Lambuth Area Neighborhood Association (LANA) in Tennessee.

Margaret Scruggs and her son, Eric, were among the first to be helped by LANA’s Operation Paintbrush last week. About 70 volunteers applied about 75 gallons of paint to the Scruggs’ house as well as to Another Super Duper Spot, a business owned by them. Operation Paintbrush provides paint and other designated supplies—such as rollers, tarps, ladders, scaffolding and donations—to eligible owners for the painting and repair of their homes and businesses.

Lisa Silver, LANA’s executive director, said the group’s past president Terry Wright had seen a program similar to Operation Paintbrush while researching “what we could do in our own community.” Silver said, “It just seemed like the perfect fit for LANA.” Wright added, “I just knew it was what we as LANA needed to do to give back to our community and figured we had to start somewhere. This is wonderful, and it’s a group effort.”

Jackson City Councilman Frank Neudecker was among the volunteers who participated in the kick-off of Operation Paintbrush. “It’s a really nice thing when you don’t expect this many people to show up and they do,” Neudecker said. “It’s really kind of a blessing.”

For future projects, LANA will only provide paint for eligible residents of the neighborhood. LANA hopes that other community organizations such as church youth groups will supply the volunteers to do the painting.

Tears welled up in the eyes of the Scruggs family as they looked upon the refurbished exteriors of their house and business. Eric Scruggs said he felt “blessed” and “ecstatic” by what his neighbors did for him and his mother. “Words can’t express what I feel to have my neighbors come out and help me and my mother with a vision we had. I don’t know how I will ever repay them, but I’m at their beck and call.”

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above news story to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:

Have you heard of any programs like Operation Paintbrush? What do you think of these kind of efforts? How willing do you think you or your church youth group would be to participate in a project like this? Explain your answer.

The Scruggs family was so overwhelmed by the help they received from Operation Paintbrush that they could not express their feelings in words. How do you think they might have expressed their feelings? Has something ever happened to you that rendered you speechless? Describe that event and your reaction to it.

Often we as human beings cannot express our feelings with words alone. One way that people handle such a situation is with music and song. Let’s look at how people in the Bible used music to express feelings too deep for words.