

A Colouring Contest

Jill Weatherhead

We are just in the early stages of our work in our language group and yet we have been trying to find ways to encourage the use of the vernacular in many different domains. Without printed Scriptures we at first felt very limited with the idea of Scripture Use (SU). Our ADLA (Assistant Director for Language Affairs) had sent us a package of information from the SU office in Ukarumpa and I looked over every bit of it. The next special celebration on the calendar was Easter and I looked to see what ideas were listed that we could use. That's when the idea of the colouring contest was born.

Finding pictures was probably the biggest difficulty of the contest. I picked out five pictures from the line drawings on Easter from the SU office in Ukarumpa (using the New Tribes Mission book). I made ten photocopies of each picture. I also photocopied five pictures from a colouring book that had no copyright restriction. To these colouring book pictures we added a short sentence under each picture, such as, “**Jesus died for sin.**” “**Mary found the empty tomb.**” These sentences were translated into Nend. I made a total of 50 copies of pictures.



A month before Easter weekend, I gave an announcement in church. The contest would be open to anyone that was interested. The pictures, paper, colouring pencils, crayons, and markers were available at our house and a space was made available under our house for anyone who wanted to come and be a part of the contest. The contest was also open to drawings that depicted the meaning of Easter. The deadline for submission was Palm Sunday when the pictures would be posted at the church. Winners would be announced at the end of the service Easter Sunday and there would be prizes for first, second and third place. By Palm Sunday, we had received 70 pictures. The majority of pictures were done by school aged children. About 15 were original drawings. The next step was the hardest. How would we decide the winners? In our situation an answer was provided when a team

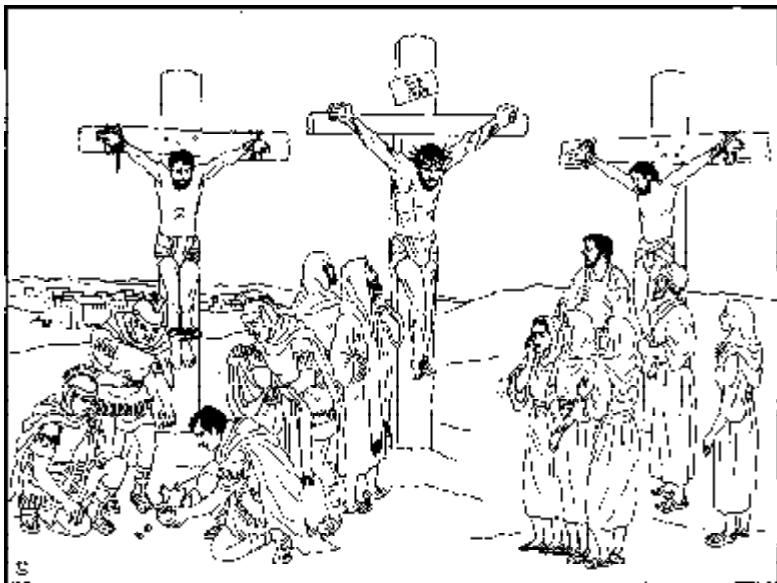
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from the US came to see our village. We had them look over the pictures. It was decided there would be two categories – original drawings and colouring.

With every contest prizes are always a plus. We happened to have a few special things that had been sent in care packages that I had set aside. First prize was a T-shirt from a church camp in the US that depicted Jesus carrying a cross and had the saying “Jesus gave us life at Calvary”. Second prize was a plain t-shirt and third prize was a set of 12 pencil crayons. A church group from the US had given us laminated cards with Bible verses (2” x 4” in size) which were given to all the other participants.



At the time of writing this article, six months have passed since the contest. Ten of the contest pictures are still on display in the church. We found this a great way to spark interest in vernacular literacy. With Christmas just around the corner, another contest is already being planned for the Angaua people. 🙏



Sample New Tribes Mission Line Drawing