Peace At Last Ministries (PALM)

Sharing God's comfort with the terminally-ill, their loved ones and caregivers.

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"A picture is worth a thousand words!"

Images are big business! In the right setting, the value of a picture may in fact be priceless.

Nobody knows for certain the source of the old saying, *"A picture is worth a thousand words."* Some attribute it to Frederick R. Barnard who published an article in 1921 under the title, *"One look is worth a thousand words."* Others attribute the saying to an ancient Chinese proverb.

BookBrowse, an internet book guide, explains,

> "There is no evidence that it is of Chinese origin… what is clear is that variations existed long before Barnard… *'One timely deed is worth ten thousand words.'* James Thomson (18th century poet), *'That tear, good girl, is worth, ten thousand words.'* Charles Breck (1808), *'The drawing shows me at one glance what might be spread over ten pages in a book.'* Ivan Turgenev (1862)."

In 1911, newspaper editor and speaker Arthur Brisbane encouraged his audience to,

> *"…use a picture. It's worth a thousand words."*



Five years ago, I stumbled upon just such a picture—an African male lion laying peacefully in a meadow. Accompanying the majestic king of beasts was a young lamb, equally at rest. The image was startling—riveting. It triggered something deep within me that I couldn't let go. Thus began a creative journey, one that continues to this day.

At the time, I was beginning our ministry to hospice patients and their families, people facing end-of-life challenges. Limited attention spans, pain, medications, weakness and a host of other symptoms seemed like a brick wall at times; they made communication challenging.

I was used to 'teaching' the gospel, to having unfettered use of a thousand words and more to convey the glorious truths of God's saving grace through Jesus Christ. A veteran missionary for over 40 years, I felt evangelistically hamstrung for the first time in my life. I needed a solution. Then two pairs of eyes providentially met mine. I had the answer… *"use a picture. It's worth a thousand words."*

After researching the picture's copyright owner, I obtained a five-year license to use the above lion and lamb image. That was in 2019. Its value in our work was instantly apparent! Patients readily embraced the visual connection. They longed to be like the lamb, at peace in the knowledge and assurance that God was at peace with them. What a joy to explain how our Peacemaker, Jesus Christ, made our peace with God possible!

> *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"* Romans 5:1



But when I went to renew our copyright license five years later, I was disappointed to learn the image was no longer available; it had been sold. That is when a series of amazing events took place which can only be described as providential! I found myself in a photo studio in California with a majestic male lion. An action photographer (a former missionary colleague from Australia) joined me as did a fine-artist friend from Canada. The result is a photo library of high-resolution images we can now use freely without restriction!











Today's desktop-publishing technology allows the artistic blending of different images. My photographer friend returned to Australia just in time for the lambing season there. He obtained a photo library of lamb images and began the process of creating a replacement photo for use at Peace At Last Ministries. I think you'll agree, the final picture, below, is worth at least *a thousand words!*



Concurrent with this project, we have been testing various versions of a gospel brochure (tract) I wrote awhile back. After nearly a year of using it with hospice patients and their families and fine tuning the content, it is now available. It answers the question,

How can I know God is at peace with me?



Other projects are also in the works, including a large painting that will be featured in a short video presentation complete with music and lyrics. More information will be forthcoming about these endeavors in the coming months.

No image is perfect. But the eternal truths this picture represents are truly priceless!

*"Oh, the depth of the **riches** both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"* Romans 11:33a

Just room here to express once again, our heartfelt appreciation for your partnership and prayers as we seek to make God's gospel of peace clearly known.



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