

TEEN TOPICS

A Biblical Solution to Adolescent Angst

(NAPSA)—Surveys show that American youth are highly spiritual but biblically uninformed. Often, the most troubled young people don't see God or God's Word as the answer to their pain. But when the connection is made, the results can be miraculous.

Through its "Reaching the Soul of America" campaign, the American Bible Society is asserting the importance of biblical truth and values, especially for the young.

A story, dramatized in a television documentary, *Soul Survivors: Saving Kids In Crisis*, demonstrates how the Bible can make an impact on a troubled youth by engaging them with the God of the Bible.

The documentary tells the story of Thalia Westphal. This 16-year-old Texas girl was depressed after her parents split up. She became absorbed in how suicide could provide relief for her pain.

Hostile and angry, Thalia "slammed doors, was very obnoxious and didn't want to be part of the family," her mother, Georgie Grossman, says. "She fought us and made life miserable."

Soon Thalia was sent to live with her father in Fort Worth, where her dad urged her to try out for the Easter pageant at Travis Avenue Baptist Church. Thalia landed a small role, expecting to be a disinterested observer of the other performers staging



Many believe that the Bible can offer troubled teens the possibility of a new life.

what she considered to be a fictional story.

During the musical, however, she experienced something unexpected. "They're not acting," she told her father about her fellow performers. The biblical story of Jesus had become real to her.

For the first time in Thalia's life, God's Word came alive. What was only paper and ink before took on flesh and blood, breath and life, as she watched the different roles played out.

"I started listening to the words," she says. A week after the pageant, she was baptized.

"I was the embodiment of Satan," says Thalia. "But God gave me a chance to start over and live for him."

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.americanbible.org.

Founded in 1816 and headquartered in New York City, the American Bible Society is a non-profit, interdenominational organization that works to transform lives, particularly among the young, by promoting personal engagement with the Holy Scriptures. Our mission is to provide the Scriptures to every person in a language and format each can readily understand and afford.