

TV
GUIDE

SPECIAL ISSUE

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FALL
PREVIEW



GOOD NEWS

9-9:30 P.M. UPN

STARS: Guy Torry, Tracey Cherelle Jones, David Ramsey, Roz Ryan, Alexia Robinson (above)

PREMISE: An idealistic and eligible young pastor (Ramsey) takes over a parish in South Central Los Angeles, but his new approach to religion—from welcoming gay members to distributing condoms—flies in the face of the conservative old guard before him.

THEY SAY: "For me, it's a gospel show," says Samm-Art Williams (*Martin*), who

coproduces the sitcom with creator Ed Weinberger (*Taxi, Amen*). "If you put a serious spin on this kind of material, nobody listens. But some of the hypocrisy people show in the name of religion is what gives us our comedy."

WE SAY: There are so many conflicting elements—gospel music, sexual energy, Bible readings, physical shtick, social messages, street jive—that it shouldn't work. But somehow it all comes together in an appealing, if somewhat awkward, package. And hey, with Billy Preston playing the organ and a choir full of great '70s funk singers, how can we complain?