



Magnolia Pictures  
presents

# JESUS CAMP

**Directed by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady**  
35mm; 1:33:1; 85 min.; Dolby SR

Sterling Feature Grand Jury Award, AFI/Discovery Silver Docs Festival, 2006

Outstanding Achievement in Documentary, Tribeca Film Festival, 2006

## Press Notes

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## SYNOPSIS

A growing number of evangelical Christians believe there is a revival underway in America that requires Christian youth to assume leadership roles in advocating the causes of their religious movement.

JESUS CAMP, directed by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady (*The Boys of Baraka*), follows Levi, Rachael, and Tory to Pastor Becky Fischer's "Kids on Fire" summer camp in Devil's Lake, North Dakota, where kids as young as 6 years-old are taught to become dedicated Christian soldiers in "God's army." The film follows these children at camp as they hone their "prophetic gifts" and are schooled in how to "take back America for Christ." The film is a first-ever look into an intense training ground that recruits born-again Christian children to become an active part of America's political future.

As in *The Boys of Baraka*, JESUS CAMP focuses on a group of children experiencing a set of environmental circumstances different from those generally considered the American "norm." Both films cast a sensitive eye on their subjects and ask audiences to consider the profound questions that surround how individual upbringing shapes personality and overall worldview.



## DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

During the 2004 Presidential election John Edwards' "Two Americas" speech seemed like a rather unoriginal way to describe the growing divide in this country. But now, after having spent almost a year shuttling back and forth between the religious heartland of Missouri, and home in New York City, the "two Americas" concept has taken on an entirely new meaning.

Clearly, there are two parallel Americas: and one is a conservative counterculture comprised of tens of millions of evangelical Christians who feel engaged in a culture war with what they perceive as immorality and godless liberalism. They consume their own news and popular culture via Christian television, radio, and publications, and carefully expose their children both to a literal interpretation of the Bible and a call to political activism.

On the surface these kids experience the same things as most middle-class kids: trips to Wal-Mart, homework, sports, dancing to their favorite music, summer camp. But quickly it becomes clear that they are living a version of childhood where devout Christianity is at the center of everything. The music coming out of their stereos may be heavy metal, but it's the Christian take, celebrating the "blood of Jesus." Their homework hails from a strict creation-based curriculum and boys on the soccer team proudly wear red bracelets imprinted with HWJC, short for "How would Jesus compete?"

And when it comes to summer camp, go-carting excursions and the water balloon toss are intermingled with raucous anti-abortion revival meetings.

The camp is a riveting example of a world many Americans either do not understand or dismiss as "fringe" and irrelevant to their own lives. But we felt perhaps they should take a closer look. The people portrayed in this film – white, middle class citizens – are part of an enormous and forceful voting block, an increasingly loud voice in American culture and politics. Together with their children they are preparing not only for Jesus to come back, but to "take back America for Christ."

What does all of this mean for Americans who call themselves secular humanists? Or those who believe in God but feel that our democracy depends on a clear delineation between Church and State? What is the significance of a generation of kids being infused with an evangelical worldview—and how will it affect the country when these children come of age?

These questions informed our own journey to Jesus Camp, and we hope audiences leave the theater discussing where we are as a nation - or whether in fact we are living in two separate nations, presently at war.

**- Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady**



## **THE FILMMAKERS**

### **Heidi Ewing**

As the co-owner of the New York-based production company, Loki Films, Ewing has taken on a wide range of subjects that includes the inner workings of Scientology, ritualistic body piercing in Sri Lanka and the labyrinth that is the criminal justice system in the Bronx. Previously, she delved into the dramatic world of Cuban politics with *Dissident*, a film about the struggle of Havana-based Nobel Peace Prize nominee Oswaldo Paya –a film that was made clandestinely and has been shown around the world. She recently co-directed, the critically-acclaimed documentary feature, *The Boys of Baraka*.

### **Rachel Grady**

The co-director of *The Boys of Baraka*, Grady is a private investigator turned filmmaker. She has produced and directed numerous non-fiction films for The Discovery Channel, A & E and Britain's Channel 4. She has directed several films that focus on mental illness including *Mad Justice*, a verité documentary that looks at the troubling fate of mentally ill parolees and *Ward 2 West*, shot on location at the Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Hospital on New York's famed Ward's Island. She also acted as series producer for "TX," an eight part series for VH1 filmed entirely in a drug rehabilitation center and is the co-founder of Loki Films.

### **Awards for *The Boys of Baraka***

Winner, Best Documentary, Newport International Film Festival, 2005; Winner, Best Documentary, The Atlanta Film Festival, 2005; Winner, Best Documentary, Chicago International Film Festival, 2005; Official Selection, Edinburgh International Film Festival, 2005; Official Selection, Human Rights Watch Film Festival, 2005; Winner, Special Jury Award, SXSW Film Festival, 2005; Winner, Audience Award, AFI/Silverdocs Film Festival, 2005; Winner, Audience Award, Woodstock Film Festival, 2005; Winner, Outstanding Independent or Foreign Film, NAACP Image Awards, 2006.



## **FEATURED PLAYERS**

### **Becky Fischer**

Becky Fischer, who's been a children's pastor for 15 years, grew up in a traditional Pentecostal church environment. Because she accepted Jesus into her heart at an early age, she believes that children can be both touched and used by God.

Fischer managed a motel, radio station and a custom sign business over a span of 23 years, spending the last eight of those as a part-time children's pastor at Word of Faith Church and Outreach Center in Bismarck, N.D. When she saw how eager children were to be involved in what God was doing in the world, she decided to answer the call to full-time ministry.

She moved to North Carolina to join Tasch Ministries International, a ministry that had at that time taken over 700 children on mission trips. She was also employed by MorningStar Publications and Ministries, Inc. (now called MorningStar Fellowship Church) in Wilkesboro, N.C. as a graphic artist in the publications department and as the children's pastor. She began to experience first-hand that, with proper instruction and training, children could preach, prophesy, operate in the gifts of the Spirit, evangelize to their friends and relatives, intercede in prayer, and even lay hands on the sick to heal them in Jesus' name. She realized that she and other ministers were seeing children as an "untapped resource" of potential ministers of the gospel.

Fischer now dedicates full-time energy as director of Kids in Ministry International, for which she writes articles, leads mission trips, conferences and trains families to be active participants in ministry. She is ordained through Christ Triumphant Church in Lee's Summit, MO. Fischer is also lead pastor of The F.I.R.E. Center in Bismarck (Mandan), N.D. She is a regular contributor to the *MorningStar Journal* and has had one of her curriculums, *Kids in Missions*, published by CharismaLife.

Fischer has traveled to Russia, the Philippines, Tanzania, South Africa, Mexico, India and several Indian reservations (Ute, Cherokee and Sioux) to train children's workers, minister to children in crusades and schools, and teach in Bible schools, training centers and churches.

### **Mike Papantonio**

Mike Papantonio is an attorney and co-host of *Ring of Fire*, a program on the Air America Radio network.

After reading *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Harper Lee's novel about a heroic small-town Southern lawyer named Atticus Finch, Papantonio decided to become a lawyer. He graduated from the University of Florida and received his law degree from Cumberland School of Law. One of the most prominent trial attorneys in the country, he is renowned as the lead counsel in virtually every major product liability case against the pharmaceutical, industrial products, insurance and stock broking industries. He is listed in "Best Lawyers in America" and "Leading American Attorney."



Papantonio's law firm Levin, Papantonio has consistently been listed as one of America's 15 most successful plaintiff's firms for which he organized the mass tort department. His practice is limited to mass torts, product liability and personal/injury wrongful death litigation.

He regularly lectures based on his three books: *In Search of Atticus Finch, A Motivational Book for Lawyers; Clarence Darrow, The Journeyman; and Resurrecting AESOP, Fables Lawyers Should Remember*. He is a co-author of *Closing Arguments - The Last Battle*.

Papantonio says he wrote *In Search of Atticus Finch* as a wake-up call to a legal profession that has largely lost its moral compass. Although on Air America he frequently takes aim at the fundamentalist Christian movement, Papantonio is an active Methodist who admits that his moral compass comes from his faith.

"I come from a pretty strong spiritual center, but it doesn't change the way I judge people. Simply put, the Sermon on the Mount makes much more sense to me than the frenzied rantings of America's new 'religious right.' They have become an element of American politics that threatens our sense of decency as well as our democracy," said Papantonio.

## **The Children**

**Levi O'Brien** (now 13) is from St. Robert, MO and lives with his brother, mother and father, who is both a preacher at their church, Rock of Ages, and an employee of the U.S. Army, which has a base at the nearby Fort Leonard Wood. Levi was "saved" at five years old and has always had a deep devotion to God. He dreams of preaching to thousands, possibly in the form of a mega-church pastor.

**Rachael Elhardt** (now 10) is also from the Rock of Ages Church in St. Robert and has been home schooled all her life. She has "an evangelizing spirit" and has recently taken to attempts to convert her neighbor to Christianity. She dreams of becoming an international missionary.

**Tory Binger** (now 11) is from Lee's Summit, a suburb of Kansas City, MO. She lives with her mother, two sisters and brother - they are all home schooled by their mother Sandra. Her father, George, a former U.S. Marine, recently volunteered to fight in Iraq after feeling that God wanted him to go. Tory feels her gifts are prophecy, dance (which she studies at a home school-only dance studio in town) and a calling to speak out against abortion.



## **EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS: SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The word “evangelical” refers to a category of Christians who, after converting to faith in Christ, hold a view of their faith based on the Bible. They believe it is their duty to influence others to accept Christ and often use their faith as a catalyst to influence culture. Being classified as an evangelical is not dependent upon church attendance or the denominational affiliation of the church they attend; it is an umbrella term that covers a diverse number of Protestant churches, some of which believe in the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” like those in JESUS CAMP who are connected with the charismatic/Pentecostal movement.

Pentecostals and charismatics like those seen in JESUS CAMP are distinguished by their emotional expressiveness, spontaneity in worship, speaking or praying in unknown tongues and acts of healing. Charismatics often characterize themselves as “spirit-filled” Christians. Out of over 100 million evangelicals in the U.S., 30 million of them are charismatic or Pentecostal. It is the fastest growing movement in world of Christianity, and includes church groups such as the Assemblies of God, the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and the Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Though members of the church in the Book of Acts in the New Testament spoke in tongues, not all evangelicals agree that such outward acts of the Holy Spirit are necessary for today. However, all evangelicals believe that to obtain salvation they must be “saved” or “born-again” by accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, an act that is often done publicly. They also believe that when they are saved they will not go to hell when they die, but instead receive eternal life, and will go to be with God and all other saved people in heaven. They believe that individuals who have not accepted Christ into their heart will spend eternity in hell.

43% of all evangelicals in the U.S. “accepted Christ” before the age of 13.

### **LEADERSHIP:**

Dr. James Dobson is perhaps the most influential evangelical leader, and heads the powerful Focus On the Family organization, based in Colorado Springs. Jerry Farwell and Pat Robertson also remain influential voices but to the more conservative evangelicals.

Another powerful evangelical lobby, the National Association of Evangelicals is headed by Ted Haggard, and represents 30 million people. He is also the Pastor of New Life Church and appears in JESUS CAMP.

### **POLITICS:**

Over the years, evangelical Christians have become increasingly active in politics. Although the born-again population constituted 38% of Americans, it represented 53% of the votes cast in the



2004 Presidential election.

George Bush, a born-again Christian, has benefited from evangelical support. In the last election over 40 % of all votes for Bush came from evangelical Christians.

Christian fundamentalists now hold a majority of seats in 36% of all Republican Party state committees, or 18 of 50 states, along with large minorities in 81% of the rest of the states.

Forty-five Senators and 186 members of the House of Representatives earned between an 80 to 100% approval ratings from the three most influential Christian Right advocacy groups: The Christian Coalition, Eagle Forum and Family Resource Council.

### **MEDIA:**

100 million Americans listen to Christian radio, a 43% increase from 5 years ago.

Tim LaHaye has sold over 63 million copies of his “Left Behind” books, one of the best selling authors in American history.

### **CREATIONISM:**

55% of 1000 adults surveyed said children should be taught creationism and Intelligent Design along with evolution in public schools.

54% of Americans do NOT believe humans developed from an earlier species (a 10% increase in 10 years: in 1994, 45% of those polled did not believe humans developed from an earlier species).

### **MORE INFO AVAILABLE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB:**

www.beliefnet.com <<http://www.beliefnet.com/>>

www.barna.org <<http://www.barna.org/>>





## HELPFUL TERMS

**DENOMINATION** – A subgroup within a religion. It typically refers to one of the many Christian churches within the four major divisions of Churches: *Eastern Orthodoxy, Oriental Orthodoxy, Catholic* and *Protestant*. For example, Lutherans, Anglicans, Presbyterians, etc. are colloquially called denominations. It is an ideology which views Christian groups as being versions of the same thing regardless of their distinguishing labels.

**FUNDAMENTALISTS** – Christian fundamentalists see their scripture as both foolproof and historically accurate. Self-described fundamentalists generally clash with contemporary charismatic, “spirit-filled” teachings and practices.

**HOLY SPIRIT** – In mainstream Christianity, the Holy Spirit is one of the three divine persons of the Holy Trinity which make up the single substance of God, the others being God the Father and God the Son (Jesus). The Holy Spirit is different from Jesus in that He does not have a physical manifestation and that He frequently dwells in and amongst God's people as a spiritual guide or a comforter.

**GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** – The Bible lists nine gifts of the Spirit, including the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom, discerning of spirits, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues.

**PROPHECY** – The Bible is full of prophecies written by people inspired by God from their dreams and visions. Christians believe that Jesus fulfilled many prophecies of the Old Testament, thus proving he was the 'son of God', or to some a messiah, and that he will return in the future to fulfill other prophecies. Charismatics and Pentecostals believe the gift of prophecy is still relevant today and they frequently exercise that gift in public worship or private prayer.

**SPEAKING IN TONGUES** – Charismatic Christians generally believe that when a believer is filled with, or baptized with, the Holy Spirit, he or she will speak with new “*tongues,*” that is, languages. These languages are given by the Holy Spirit, and they will be languages unknown to the speaker. Not all Christian groups practice speaking in tongues.

**TONGUES-INTERPRETER** – According to the Apostle Paul in the Book of Acts, speaking in tongues is valuable to the one hearing God's message in his/her own language, but it is useless to everyone else – unless it is interpreted / translated. A person with the gift of interpreting tongues could understand what a tongues-speaker was saying even though he/she did not know the language that was being spoken. The tongues-interpreter would then communicate the message of the tongues-speaker to everyone else, so all could understand.

**HOLY ROLLER** – A term in American English used to describe Pentecostal Christian churchgoers. The term is commonly used derisively, as if to describe people literally rolling on the floor or speaking in tongues in an uncontrolled manner.

**MARTYR** – A person who dies for their convictions or religious faith.



**FASTING** – The act of willingly abstaining from some or all food and in some cases drink, for a period of time. Most Protestants consider fasting, usually accompanied by prayer, to be an important part of their personal spiritual experience. For charismatic Christians, fasting is done in order to seek a closer intimacy with God, as well as an act of petition.

**REPENTANCE** – An admission of guilt, a solemn promise or resolve not to repeat an offense. In religious contexts, it usually refers to repenting for a sin against God. Christians believe that acts of repentance do not earn God's forgiveness from one's sin; rather, forgiveness is given as a gift from God to those whom he saves.

**SALVATION** – Protestant Christians generally agree that salvation is not something that a person can attain on their own, but rather is the gift of God which people freely receive and accept.

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE** – Frequently used in charismatic and Pentecostal settings, this metaphor describes the on-going spiritual battle believers engage with against Satan and his demons. Charismatics believe Christ won a victory for all believers with his death, burial and resurrection, making it their duty to pray God's will to be released in earth as it is in heaven (The Lord's Prayer).

**SANCTIFICATION** – To make holy or sacred. Many forms of Christianity believe that this process will only be completed in Heaven, but some believe that complete holiness is possible in this life.



## SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE ADULTS OF JESUS CAMP

**Becky Fischer, Director of Kids in Ministry International.**

*What was your initial reaction to the movie?*

The first time I actually watched the movie I was still trying to sort out the whole political thing in my mind. It was a new twist that was added after we'd been into the project at least 9 months already, and was about the last thing I ever thought would come out of this movie. It sort of sidetracked me from just being able to sit and enjoy watching the film. Plus, because I knew what had been videotaped during the year's time, I found myself not being able to just sit and watch like a normal observer, but I kept asking myself and the filmmakers things like, "Why was this put in the film and not that?" Basically I liked it, but with reservations. I've been a little nervous about the whole political angle because I don't consider myself or what we do with kids as overtly political. The girls at Loki Films are excellent at what they do. But at the same time I was struggling, wondering "what just happened here?" I have to be honest and say it was not entirely what I expected and there was a little bit of disappointment because I had preconceived ideas of what it was going to be like. But we have had some good long talks about the direction they felt they needed to take the film, and I do understand why they did what they did and in the long run I believe it will attract more viewers.

*What do you want people to learn from the film?*

When you say "people," there are two groups of people we can discuss—the secular audience and the evangelical community.

I wondered from the beginning what the secular audience would find interesting about what we do at all because we work pretty much exclusively within the Church world in our ministry. Before the addition of the political content, I assumed their interest would be the supernatural nature of what the children walked in because we live in a culture where the supernatural has come back into focus again, particularly in the secular world. However, now I am concerned the secular audience will be focusing on the political side of things, and completely miss the power of the living God who is alive and well, and working through the lives of even small children in this film. We want people to see God is real and alive and active in our lives.

As for the evangelical community, my focus as a minister has basically been to bring an awareness to the Body of Christ (i.e. people who are committed followers of Jesus) of the potential spiritual dynamos we have in our children. My hope is that Christians will look past all the political mumbo jumbo and see this film for what it is—as one news source said, this is a movie about extreme faith, not politics. It's also about the importance of disciplining children in the Christian faith. My hope is they will be able to see the more obvious truth which is children are capable of understanding, feeling, being an enthusiastic and powerfully effective part of extreme faith in Jesus Christ because this is an extreme generation.



These kids are not interested in sitting on the sidelines of Christianity until they turn 21. They want to be a part of what God is doing on the earth NOW! If Christians don't wake up to this fact, statistically we face the very real possibility that we will lose the next generation to the Christian faith. My hope is Christians everywhere will see this and realize they need to change the way they are currently disciplining their children, taking their kids beyond the basic Bible stories and truly disciple them as active members in the kingdom of God.

*Could the film be used as an evangelical tool?*

I think it could if a Christian sat through it with a friend and dialogued about it afterward. If the focus can be taken off the politics, and put on the power of the living God, I think it could at least be another seed planted in the mind and heart of one who is seeking for honest answers.

*Do you feel that God's hand was involved in the movie in some way?*

Back in 2002 I was on a mission trip to South Africa when a children's minister I was visiting prophesied over me, "There's going to be a TV show that's going to be made that will be current all the time with what's happening with children around the world. TV channels are going to open up to miracles and to signs and wonders because nobody will deny it when it happens to children. I believe we're going to have kids on these TV shows that will speak about what the Lord is doing..."

Then later in 2003 the same minister prophesied to me again, "Becky, I just feel that very soon there's going to be openings in the media—radio and television. There's going to be openings for children in revival, and I just believe that you're going to see programs that are not just about adults seeing signs and wonders, but children in revival. I just sense that God is going to open that door for you..."

I had tucked these prophecies in the back of my mind and would think of them from time to time, so I really wasn't surprised when I got a phone call in 2005 asking me if I would be interested in being involved in this movie. The surprise was that the invitation came from the secular media, and not the Christian media. Because of these prophecies I was expecting a phone call from Pat Robertson or Paul and Jan Crouch, or some other Christian television ministries.

In actuality, being given exposure to the secular audience as well as Christian is a plan only God would have thought of, because I certainly wouldn't have. In spite of the political twist, which is what is getting such nation-wide attention, we believe this is going to give us a greater platform to help get our agenda out to the Christian community, which is redefining children's ministry in the body of Christ. We feel this absolutely critical to grasp hold of in because children are key players in these end times [see Joel 2:28].



*What is the role of the evangelical in today's political life?*

We, as Christians, have not been called to change the world through politics. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, i.e. natural. Rather we have been called to change the hearts of men and women through faith in Christ, and when enough hearts are transformed, it will change the political climate of any nation.

But if one is truly a Christ follower, you cannot compartmentalize what you believe on Sunday and close it off from what you read in the papers on Monday. What you believe as truth is going to affect how you vote in the polls. If you have a biblical worldview, it's impossible to not let it affect how you feel about things that go against biblical values. The Bible, and our Christian faith, shapes our morals, our values, our viewpoints and our attitudes on all issues in life, which include politics. As one of our forefathers has said, all it takes for evil to triumph is for enough good people to do nothing. The Bible defines for us what is good and acceptable. As Christians, we must stand up for what we believe is right regardless if we use the cloak of Christianity as our banner in the process.

*Do you consider yourself and your kids politically active?*

No. What we do is teach our kids what the Bible has to say about life and how we are supposed to respond to it as Christians.

For instance, there has been a lot of hoopla made over the fact one of my guest speakers in a recent conference brought out a life-sized poster of President Bush and taught our kids to pray for him. They saw that as horribly political, partly because it's well known that a large percentage of evangelicals tend to favor the current president. But we as Christians don't consider what we did as particularly a political ploy. To us this is just good Christianity. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 2:1-3 NLT, "I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks. 2. Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity. 3. This is good and pleases God our Savior." To us this is just obeying God. We would have taught our kids to pray this way no matter who the president is—Republican or Democrat.

In the same conference we brought out a flag of Israel and taught the kids to pray for the peace of Jerusalem according to scripture. Psalms 122:6 NLT, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May all who love this city prosper." Some people saw it as political. We see it as following the instructions of the Bible, which is just good Christianity, no matter what your political stand on Israel is.

We later had a guest minister who shared with the kids about the seriousness of taking innocent life, which the Bible says over and over again God hates. He led them in praying for the peaceful overturn of Roe vs. Wade to end abortion in America, which we view as the taking of innocent life. We certainly acknowledge that this is an emotionally charged political issue in our nation. But to Christians, this is really not about politics. This is just good Christianity and standing on moral principles! Psalms 106:38 NLT "They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters. By sacrificing them to the idols of Canaan, they polluted the land with murder."



*Is it important to teach your kids their responsibilities to their society? Why?*

Yes. But you teach them their responsibility by creating a Christian worldview in them, which affects all of society. Studies have shown that a person's moral values in life are set in place between the ages of 7 to 9 years of age and will change very little after that. These same studies indicate that what a child believes by the age of thirteen, good or bad, he/she will basically believe to the day he dies.

The importance of teaching children strong values and biblical truths can be seen in a study that came out recently showing how American culture has been affected by a decline in moral values. A quick look at the last four generations reveals:

- The Builders (born 1927-1945): 65% believed in biblical principles.
- The Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964): 35% were Bible based believers.
- The Busters (born 1965-1983): barely 16% are Bible based believers.
- The Millenials (born 1984 or later): a mere 4% are Bible based believers.

How has that affected society? The Baby Boomers are currently our leaders in politics, the corporate world, education, technology, media, etc. and with 35% still claiming to have biblical values we now have:

- A flood of morally corrupt films and television programs.
- An increasingly perverted music industry.
- Fifty percent of marriages ending in divorce.
- The pornographic invasion of the Internet.
- An alarming increase in violence in our homes and schools.
- Civil initiatives promoting gay marriage and undermining traditional family values.
- Legalized abortion where as many as one third of all pregnancies end in abortion.
- Horrific levels of drug and alcohol abuse and prisons bulging at the seams.
- And more...

What will our society look like when the Millenials are the adults running the world and only 4% of them have Christian or biblical values? It is in childhood that we must reach people with the gospel, and impart to them moral values that will in turn affect all of society. If we wait until they are teens, we have waited too late!

*What do you make of people "fearing" the evangelical movement and these kids' determination?*

We fear what we don't understand, or what we don't agree with, especially if it looks like what we fear is going to become more powerful than us. I'm sure it's unnerving, almost shocking, for people to see kids like these in the film walking in such confidence and supernatural authority and power if you've never seen it before. But it seems so strange to me that people fear us training our kids to value and protect human life, to embrace high moral standards, to walk in goodness,



kindness and love toward their fellow man, to turn their backs on evil and to have a strong faith in the Creator of the universe. Where's the harm to society in that? Where does that become spooky to them? It can only be scary if you have values that are just the opposite. And to me that's what should be feared!

*How are these kids different than secular kids?*

These kids are average ordinary kids who like to play, laugh, ride bikes, eat candy and ice cream, sing and do all the other things kids like to do. The only difference is they have been given a strong faith in God as their creator, friend and savior. These kids know they are loved by God, that they were made in His image and that He has a great plan for their lives that begins, not when they turn 21, but right now! These kids are secure in their relationships with God, and know Him to be real in their lives and not just a storybook fairy tale. They have felt His presence, heard His voice, been His hands and feet in healing the sick, preaching, giving prophetic words to others. It has given them unusual self-confidence. God is very real to them and they love Him with all their hearts. That will make you different!

*Do you think the evangelical movement is misunderstood? What do people need to know about it?*

I think we all believe we are misunderstood from time to time. I don't think evangelicals are any more misunderstood than Jews or Blacks or Native Americans, etc. That's just personal opinion. We evangelicals do have a culture all our own, and it's easy to misunderstand cultures we were not raised in. It would serve us all well to try to understand others. While secularists would benefit from learning more about us, the truth is, it would serve the Christian community well if we would try to learn more about non-Christ followers if we truly expect to reach a lost and dying world.

*Has the evangelical movement changed in the last few years or has it just become more visible?*

The simple answer is we are more visible because we have grown significantly in numbers over the years, but we have also become more vocal in protecting what we believe in as we've seen our Christian heritage get whittled away in American culture. Many Christians have just decided enough is enough, and they are standing up for what they see as an erosion of what we have always valued in this country. In doing so they have become both more vocal and visible.

*What do you think of the involvement of evangelical leaders in politics? Too little? Too much?*

Christians are to be salt and light in this world if we are to make a difference. Ministers and Christian leaders have been involved in the politics of this country from its inception. I've heard it said that as many as half of the men who signed our Constitution were ministers or Christian



leaders, which sort of gives a black eye to the whole “separation of church and state” issue. Each evangelical leader today has to be led by the Spirit of God for themselves and know if they are to be involved in politics or not. Hopefully they will not get confused with what they have been called by God to do and get off track. At the same time who better to speak out for the Christian values this nation was founded on than those who know the scriptures well?

*Are you different than other children’s ministers? In what way? Why is your message so appealing to kids?*

Kids are hungry for the supernatural. This is the Harry Potter generation. These are the kids who want to know, “Is there really a school of witchcraft I can go to to learn to cast spells?” because there is no doubt in their minds there is really a supernatural world out there. When we tell them God wants to use them to do signs, wonders and miracles, they don’t argue doctrine with us, they just do it!

This is an extreme generation, one of passion and looking for purpose. Every human being wants to know there’s a purpose for their lives—even children. We give them all those things in our camps, conferences and teaching materials. If kids can’t find passion, purpose, power and the supernatural in church, they will go somewhere else to find it. In Kids in Ministry International we celebrate the fact they are children and we teach them that God wants to use them, rather than stick them in a basement or a back room to baby sit them just so mom and dad can enjoy a good church service. We put them to work in the kingdom of God instead of keeping them busy with coloring pages of Bible characters from stories they’ve heard a hundred times by the time they’re 10.

We deliberately on purpose train boys and girls to hear the voice of God, be led by His Spirit, to believe and reach for miracles and healings. We are deliberate in our attempt to create regular atmospheres for them to feel and experience the presence of God and to interact with Him through prayer, worship, laying on of hands, prophesying and more. Kids absolutely love it! Many adults and church leaders have no grid for children walking in the supernatural Christian lifestyle, that’s why watching the kids in this movie can have the potential of being very unnerving to those who’ve never seen kids like this before. Typical Christian mentality is that children cannot understand or handle anything deeply spiritual until they reach their teen years. We strongly disagree and hope to shed light on this and help people see what spiritual powerhouses children can be at young ages when given the chance.

*What do you see kids from your camp doing in the future?*

My prayer for them is that they simply learn to hear God’s voice and be led by His Spirit in their daily lives and choose good over evil throughout their lives. If they can do that, the sky is the limit as to what they can accomplish for the Kingdom of God both in the natural and the spiritual worlds. “They that know their God will be strong and do mighty exploits!” (Daniel 11:32) You name it, they will do it!





**Sandra Binger, Tory Binger's mom.**

*What was your initial reaction to the movie?*

I really enjoyed it and I followed the message, in the movie, very easily.

*What do you want people to learn from the film?*

That children raised as Christians will have a profound and positive impact on the world.

*Could the film be used as an evangelizing tool?*

Yes, I believe it will.

*Do you feel that God's hand was involved in this movie in some way?*

In more than just one way. Heidi and Rachel, who produced The Boys of Baraka, connected with Becky Fischer, a children's minister from North Dakota. The Lord initiated that connection which was the first of many.

*Do you think the evangelical movement is misunderstood? What do people need to know about it?*

Yes, I do. That Christians care about their fellow man, and the world we all live in. This is because God's Spirit lives in each one of us and His Word compels us to do great things for mankind.

*What is the role of the evangelical in today's political life?*

It should be an active one to affect this aspect of all our lives.

*Do you consider yourself and your kids politically active?*

Yes. We take our civic responsibility seriously. We try, to the best of our ability, to stay informed regarding the political landscape of our country, and the world.

*Is it important to teach your kids their responsibilities to their society and why?*

Yes, it is extremely important. I believe it is one of the innumerable responsibilities of a parent to instruct their child(ren) regarding the social issues that affect their world, both near and far.



*What do you make of people “fearing” the evangelical movement and these kids’ determination?*

I believe their fears are without merit. Regarding the children’s determination: they are only mirroring what they read in the Word of God, the Bible.

*How are your kids different than secular kids?*

One of the messages in the Bible is to deny yourself and serve others, because that is the heart of God and who Jesus is. Because of this, my children are taught to love, serve, forgive, respect authority, honor their parents and to know right from wrong.

*Has it changed in the last few years or has it just become more visible?*

The reason it has become more visible is that the sinful nature of man has been demonstrated in more outrageous and disgusting ways.

*What do you think of the involvement of evangelical leaders in politics?*

I believe everyone of them should be involved, as it is civic responsibility.

*Is Becky Fischer different than other children’s ministers? In what way?*

Yes, she is. She takes profound biblical truths and messages, combines them with object lessons, and engages the children they listen, learn and remember.

*Why is her message so appealing to kids?*

She brings it to their learning level and she gets them involved in her message.

*What did your kid’s learn at Becky’s camp?*

They learned about hearing the voice of God over the voices of the world. They experienced how Jesus heals not only their physical body, but their soul and spirit as well.

*What do you see your kids doing in the future?*

Whatever God has in store for them. I believe they will each be a beacon of God’s light and truth, offering hope to the people they are around.



*How would you characterize charismatics as different than other evangelicals? Why is the charismatic movement growing faster than other segments of evangelicalism?*

The difference between charismatics and evangelicals is their training exposure and acceptance of certain topics in the Bible. There are so many areas which they do agree, and the main one is salvation through Jesus Christ. The charismatic movement is growing because the world is searching for God through the supernatural demonstration they see with the charismatic movement.

*How do you feel when people criticize the Creation curriculum and the Young Earth movement?*

I believe their criticisms are based in fear and that is they looked at the facts in Creation curriculum and the young Earth movement, the critics would be able to logically conclude these two things are valid.

**Mark Elhardt, Rachael Elhardt's father.**

*What was your initial reaction to the movie?*

It was mixed. I felt it definitely revealed the current spiritual conflict going on in our culture today. I did immediately get a sense that political hot button issues were focused on and there was some stereotypical messages that were meant to be brought out concerning conservative Christians.

*What do you want people to learn from the film?*

That God is real and that a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ makes a positive difference in the everyday lives of people.

*Could the film be used as an evangelizing tool?*

In its current form I feel it is limited as an evangelism tool. However the truth about Jesus Christ is presented in the film and anytime the gospel is proclaimed it will be beneficial.

*Do you feel that God's hand was involved in this movie in some way?*

Yes. I think He initiated it but man is involved as well. How much His hand was involved is determined by how much was given over to Him.



*What is the role of the evangelical in today's political life?*

The role in a sense would be the same for every American. To be a part of the process of government in a free society. It would be irresponsible to not be involved in the processes that shape the vision, character and destiny of our nation. We desire to be represented in our government in the same way others want to be represented. Because we believe God ultimately determines the fate of nations we desire to pass laws that mirror God's laws as revealed in Scripture. A nation built upon the spirit and letter of God's laws will experience stability and prosperity. However, I don't think you can ultimately legislate morality. The government cannot change the human heart. Devoid of a spiritual awakening there will be continued decay of morals in society.

*Do you consider yourself and your kids politically active? Is it important to teach your kids their responsibilities to their society and why?*

We are active in the sense that this is our country and we have a responsibility to be involved in the process of government. When training our children we want them to be responsible in every area of life. Being a good citizen, contributing to the welfare of the nation, adding to not taking away, and simply being a responsible adult in the things given to us by God. We believe in making a positive impact in the lives of people. We want our kids to know what they do really matters. How they live their lives matters and they make a difference in this world for good.

*What do you make of people "fearing" the evangelical movement and these kids' determination?*

I feel sad that they would fear people that love Jesus and want to be like Him. Our kid's biggest determination is to love God with all their heart, soul and strength. Everything else is secondary to that. I think people tend to fear what they don't understand. When you come to Jesus, He changes your perspective. I can sympathize with people who don't understand why we do what we do.

I don't think the majority of people fear us. A very small percentage of Americans feel this way because most do not have an overt political agenda of their own. You would have nothing to fear unless somehow Christians opposed your agenda or vision for America. One would only fear if they thought their enemy was winning.

This small group of people does have a lot of influence through the media, through which they have tried to shape the perceptions of others when it comes to evangelical Christians. We are portrayed poorly. We are portrayed as somebody to fear. This group will vilify anybody that does not believe or think the way they do. If you think differently than them you must be a radical or an idiot.



*How are your kids different than secular kids?*

Our kids are different because of a simple belief in absolute truth. Secular kids today are taught that truth is relative. Our kids are taught that a relationship with God is the most important thing in life. When kids are taught that God is real and He loves them and has a plan for them it brings a sense of safety, security and purpose. I think, on average, secular kids may lack in those areas. There is also a lack of wholesomeness in the secular community when it comes to entertainment and what their kids are exposed to.

*Do you think the evangelical movement is misunderstood? What do people need to know about it?*

Yes. I think some of the misunderstanding has come from a few within the movement not portraying the right motive in what they do. Also, I think the media's portrayal over the years has caused some of the problem. You will never hear a story from the secular media about the positive impact Christianity has had or is having in the lives of people.

We are talking about a God who because of Jesus Christ can bring positive changes in the lives of people. We want to tell others about the best thing that has ever happened to us. We are a group of people whose lives have been completely turned around by the love of God. We are former alcoholics, drug addicts and sex addicts. We are not and were never perfect. We were living for ourselves and doing our own thing. We are not better than anyone else, but we have found someone who came to set sinners free and give them real life. It would be unloving not to share with others what God has done and is doing for us especially when we see others trapped in the same areas we were. We remember how miserable life was without God.

Because our message must be spiritually discerned we will always be misunderstood. If Jesus himself was misunderstood can we expect to be more understood? There will always be people who do not want to hear the truth of God's word even though the message comes through the people whose changed lives validate it.

*Has the evangelical movement changed in the last few years or has it just become more visible?*

The basic message has always been the same. I think approaches will change because we are learning from past mistakes and God is causing us to be more like Jesus as time goes on. I think it may seem more visible because of the amount of people that have come to know Christ. They may be better organized as well.

*What do you think of the involvement of evangelical leaders in politics?*

Evangelical leaders should be involved in politics just as much as anybody else in society. They are not exempt just because they are in ministry any more than others would be exempt because of their profession. Christian leaders throughout history have been highly involved in politics



including the formation of our nation. If true Christian leadership were more involved in politics in Germany prior to World War II, Hitler would never have come to power.

*Is Becky Fischer different than other children's ministers? In what way?*

Becky's ministry is different than the majority of other children's ministers. There is however a handful speaking the same message. I think she is a forerunner. In other words she is leading a change in how we do children's ministry. Many, many others will follow. She is part of the current leadership bringing a shift in this area of church life. What is rare today will become the norm tomorrow.

It is different because children are not just taught Bible stories. They are not put on hold and entertained until they are older. They are the church of today, not tomorrow. They are not just taught about God. They are taught to experience God by the Holy Spirit. They are empowered to move with God. They are taught to hear His voice, follow Him and do His works. This is a major shift in how children's ministry has been done in the past.

*Why is her message so appealing to kids?*

One reason is the kids know she really, genuinely, cares about them. The message not only teaches them but activates them to do what they have learned. Experience is the greatest teacher. Kids like this because they want to do it not just talk about it. Becky's messages empower them to do and experience God. Once a child tastes the presence and goodness of God they will want more and more.

*What did your kids learn at Becky's camp?*

Rachael told us God had really helped her learn to forgive some people in her life who had hurt her. She was able to get free from bitterness and resentment that was building up in her heart. The camp's focus was on being healed by the Love of God the Father.

*What do you see your kids doing in the future?*

I am not sure. The most important thing to me is that they are following God's leading and are submitted to His will for their lives. Everything else is icing on the cake. No matter what they do as long as they are following God I'm happy.

*How would you characterize charismatics as different than other evangelicals? Why is the charismatic movement growing faster than other segments of evangelicalism?*



Charismatics differ due to a greater emphasis on the activity and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The charismatic movement is growing faster because of our reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes we shall receive power to be witnesses for His name. This power of the Holy Spirit accomplishes more than human effort.

*How do you feel when people criticize the Creation curriculum and the Young Earth movement?*

It really does not bother me. I expect it. I do think there is a lot of hypocrisy and biases when it comes to science. True scientists are seekers of truth. I think many scientists have already made up their mind. Their own biases and beliefs cannot be overcome by many scientific discoveries that back up the biblical model. I think we need to explore all the evidence even if it backs up what the Bible reveals.

**Carol Koch, Pastor at Tory's church Christ Triumphant.**

*What was your initial reaction to the movie?*

I was pleasantly surprised. I thought for the most part they did a good job on portraying just facts and letting people decide for themselves what they think.

*What do you want people to learn from the film?*

That just because you are an evangelical Christian and passionate about your beliefs doesn't mean you're this little obscure, weird group of people.

*Could the film be used as an evangelizing tool?*

Yes, to awaken people that kids are hungry for a relationship that is genuine with God.

*Do you feel that God's hand was involved in this movie in some way?*

Of course, why would a film crew be interested in a topic like this?

*Do you think the evangelical movement is misunderstood? What do people need to know about it?*

Yes! Again, it is a group of people who are very passionate about their belief in God and would hold to the Bible teachings and values for every part of their lives.



I think the evangelicals are misunderstood as being people that are somewhat “strange” when really we are just a “large” group that love God, teach the bible to our children, and are very passionate.

*What is the role of the evangelical in today’s political life?*

I think they are a rising voice to our nation that we want family values, morality, in our government and lives, and we as Christians have a “right to express our opinions.”

*Do you consider yourself and your kids politically active?*

I never thought of myself as being politically active, I guess because that hasn’t been my motivation its been biblical teachings, values that I want for my children and country and you can’t separate it because the political crosses moral lines.

*Is it important to teach your kids their responsibilities to their society? Why?*

Absolutely! I want them to be good, responsible citizens that are a part of the life of their country and to have a voice.

*What do you make of people “fearing” the evangelical movement and these kids’ determination?*

I think they don’t really understand the “movement.”

*How are your kids different than secular kids?*

They would be different on their views, because their values would be based on the Bible.

*Has it changed in the last few years or has it just become more visible?*

I think it has become more visible due to the advancement of technology.

*What do you think of the involvement of evangelical leaders in politics? Too little? Too much?*

I think evangelicals have just as much right to be involved in politics as anyone else. After all, we are Americans also!





*Is Becky Fischer different than other children's ministers? In what way?*

Yes! She would believe like myself, that children have the ability to have a vital relationship with God as a child.

*Why is her message so appealing to kids?*

It's full of life! And they feel a change in their hearts.

*What did your kids learn at Becky's camp?*

They would always feel the presence of God in a very real way!

*What do you see your kids doing in the future?*

Increasing in the knowledge of God and growing up to be sound, solid Americans.

*How would you characterize charismatics as different than other evangelicals? Why is the charismatic movement growing faster than other segments of evangelicalism?*

The main difference would be charismatics embracing the gifts of the Spirit, maybe because it is very real and changes people from the inside.

*How do you feel when people criticize the Creation curriculum and the Young Earth movement?*

I feel that creation is a biblical teaching so because of that I am firm on my belief about Creation. Everyone has a "right" to believe how they want, but again my belief system is based on the Bible. So, I would feel like they were trying to discount biblical teachings.



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**Additional Music**

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John Lucas  
Scott Millican  
New Life Church  
The O'Briens  
Sam Pollard  
Dan Praid  
Abbe Raven  
Lynn Vance

**Archive**

Air America Radio  
American Family Radio  
Answers in Genesis  
Big Idea  
KMBZ  
Ring of Fire  
The Family Research Council  
Truths That Transform  
Voice of America

Original Music Written and performed by  
Sanford Livingston and IONIC



“Breathe Prophecy”  
Music and lyrics by Todd Ganovski

“Who’s in the House?”  
Music and Lyrics by Carman  
EMI/Sparrow Records  
Co-Publishers Warner Chappell Music/Lehsem Songs

“Spirit in the Sky”  
Music and lyrics by Norman Greenbaum  
Courtesy of Great Honesty Music/ Trans Tone Productions

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