

Campus Crusade For Christ or Cru

Nine Wikipedia Articles

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Campus Crusade for Christ

Campus Crusade for Christ is an interdenominational Christian group that promotes evangelism and discipleship in more than 190 countries around the world. In 1996, *USA Today* called Campus Crusade the largest evangelical organization in the United States. Today, the organization employs over 25,000 full-time missionaries and has trained 225,000 volunteers around the world.^[1]

Founded in 1951 at the University of California, Los Angeles by Bill Bright as a ministry for college students, Campus Crusade has since expanded its focus to include adult professionals,^[2] families,^[3] athletes,^[4] high school students,^[5] and more. The World Headquarters is located in Orlando, Florida, and the current president of the organization is Steve Douglass.^[1]

Campus Crusade is also the publisher of *The Four Spiritual Laws*, also known as the "Knowing God Personally Booklet".

On July 19, 2011, Campus Crusade for Christ announced that they will be changing their name to "Cru" in order to overcome existing barriers and perceptions inherent in the original name. This name was already in use on a number of college campuses.^[6]

Ministries

Campus Ministry

Campus Crusade for Christ has active ministries on 1,064 college and university campuses with over 50,000 students actively involved in the U.S. ministry in 2007.^[7]

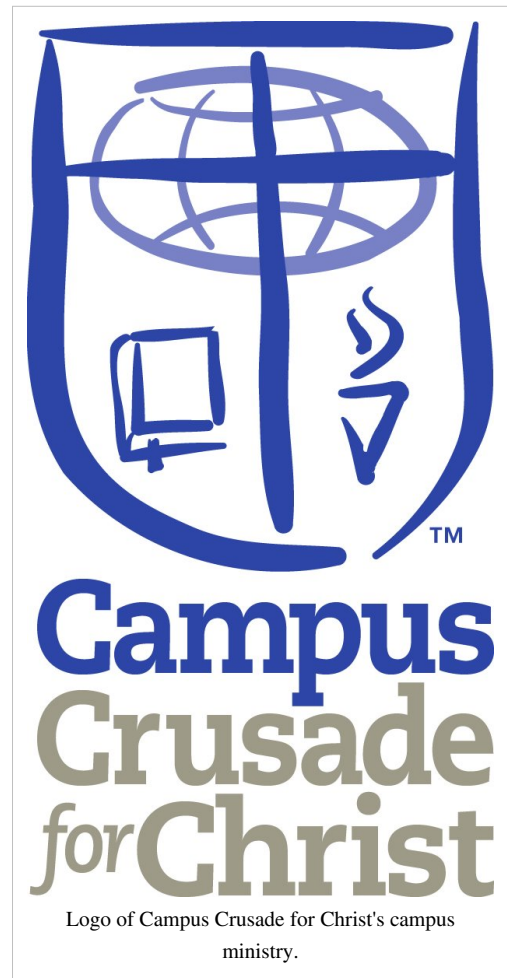
While Campus Crusade continues to use one-to-one conversations about God to reach out to students, they also use mass meetings, film showings and new media, such as Google advertising with e-mail responses and social networking on Facebook.^[8]

The Jesus Film Project

The Jesus Film Project was founded in 1981 to translate the Hollywood film *Jesus* into other languages so that it could be shown by missionaries to peoples around the world in their native languages.^[9]

The first translation was done for the Tagalog-speaking people of the Philippines. The organization works with thousands of missionaries around the world to show the film, sometimes to audiences who have never seen a motion picture. Distribution in the United States has included direct mail campaigns sponsored by churches to deliver a copy of the film to every address in select zip codes across the country.^[10] In 2004, the organization made the film available for viewing on its website in over 800 languages.^[11] Both *Jesus* and *The Story of Jesus for Children* are available in DVD and VHS formats. Audio dramatizations in a number of languages are also available.

The origins of The Jesus Film Project date back to 1945 when a young businessman named Bill Bright wanted to privately finance a film about the life of Jesus Christ^[12] that was entertaining, biblically accurate, and which could be translated into non-English languages. Rather than making a film at that time, Bright went on to found a Christian ministry to reach college students called Campus Crusade for Christ in 1951.



In 1976, with Campus Crusade's influence spreading beyond college campuses to sports, the marketplace and other aspects of society, Bright turned his attention once again to filmmaking. Hollywood producer John Heyman approached Bright to fund a project to put the entire Bible on film. The project would eventually be scaled back to just one book of the Bible, the Gospel of Luke, and be financed primarily by Campus Crusade supporters Bunker and Caroline Hunt^[13] for a sum of \$6 million.

A team of 500 scholars and leaders from secular and Christian organizations began to research historical elements for a film about Jesus. Filming took place over the course of several months throughout the Middle East.^[14]

Jesus was produced by John Heyman, a German-born Jew and starred British Shakespearean actor Brian Deacon as Jesus, Rivka Neumann as Mary, Yosef Shiloach as Joseph and Niko Nitai as Peter.^[15]

The Jesus Film Project has translated *Jesus* into 1,006 languages and shown the film in 228 nations.^[16] Project leaders claim that it has been viewed over 5 billion times by over 3 billion people, numbers which cannot be verified and have been greeted with skepticism by other evangelical leaders.^[17]

Athletes in Action

Athletes in Action works with athletes and coaches who compete at both the collegiate and professional level to use the platform of sport to help people around the world with questions of faith.^[18]

Among the events sponsored by Athletes in Action is the NFL-sanctioned Super Bowl Breakfast^[19] which features the presentation of the Bart Starr Award "to honor the NFL player who best exemplifies outstanding character and leadership in the home, on the field and in the community."^[20]

FamilyLife

In 1976, Campus Crusade began providing pre-marriage seminars for its staff members. Following their success, married staff couples began asking for encouragement through marriage seminars. Demand for the seminars spread to community leaders and pastors they were opened to the public in 1978. Since 1976 more than 1.5 million people have attended conferences. Today, approximately 100 "FamilyLife: Weekend to Remember" conferences annually held in almost every major city in America. FamilyLife offers multiple resources like the HomeBuilders Couples Series, HomeBuilders Parenting Series, Resurrection Eggs, and What God Wants for Christmas.^[21]

FamilyLife president Dennis Rainey hosts the daily *FamilyLife Today* radio broadcast.^[22]

Josh McDowell

In 1964, Josh McDowell became a traveling representative of Campus Crusade for Christ International addressing campus groups about the Christian faith. Over the years his ministry has focused on Christian apologetics, youth issues such as relationships and sexuality, and international humanitarian aid.^[23]

McDowell's writings have concentrated on addressing challenges to belief, questions posed by non-Christians, doubts about faith, and non-Christian religions. Notable works include *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, *The Resurrection Factor*, *He Walked Among Us*, *More Than A Carpenter* and *The Da Vinci Code: A Quest for Answers*. McDowell has arranged his arguments by pleading for a cumulative case of evidences, such as archaeological discoveries, the extant manuscripts of the biblical texts, fulfilled prophecies, and the miracle of the resurrection.

Other ministries

The Christian Embassy is a Campus Crusade ministry with offices in a number cities around the world. Its United Nations office is accredited as a Non-Governmental Organization.^[24] Another office located in Washington, D.C., is geared towards the diplomatic community, including presidential employees, members and the staff of the United States Congress, and workers in The Pentagon. Its alleged influence among the military and in national politics has attracted attention from the media.^{[25] [26]}

Global Aid Network (GAIN) is the humanitarian aid arm of Campus Crusade for Christ. In 2007-2008 fiscal year GAIN distributed over \$30 million worth of aid to countries all over the world. Global Aid Network exists to bring the message of God's love through tangible ways. GAIN is able to partner with many countries around the world, because of the wide network of Campus Crusade for Christ. GAIN also has several mission trips that go on year-round.

Military Ministry

The Military Ministry was started by Bright in 1966 and originally led by retired Colonel Glen Jones.^[27] In July 2009 Christianity Today noted the organization's Bridges to Healing Ministry, which specifically addresses the issue of PTSD.^[28] The *Baltimore Chronicle* in December 2007 published an article "Military Evangelism Deeper, Wider Than First Thought" that was critical of Military Ministries as well as other Christian evangelism organizations.^[29]

Timeline

Chronology of events in Campus Crusade's history^[30]:

1950s

- 1951: Campus Crusade for Christ is founded by Bill and Vonette Bright on the UCLA campus.
- 1952: The Brights accept their first six staff members.
- 1958: Campus Crusade becomes an international organization, forming a ministry in South Korea.
- 1959: By the end of the 1950s, Campus Crusade is active on 40 U.S. college campuses and in three other countries.

1960s

Campus Crusade begins new ministries to high school students, military personnel, and athletes, as well as a new prayer ministry.

- 1962: Campus Crusade purchases their headquarters for the next three decades at Arrowhead Springs, a resort complex in San Bernardino, California.
- 1965: Bill Bright writes *Have you Heard of The Four Spiritual Laws?*, likely the most widely distributed religious booklet in history, with more than 2.5 billion printed to date.
- 1966: Campus Crusade begins The Music Ministry (now called *Keynote*), using music to communicate the gospel around the world.
- 1969: By the end of the 1960s, Campus Crusade is active in 25 countries.

1970s

- 1972: EXPLO '72, a conference featuring evangelism and discipleship training, premieres in Dallas with 80,000 in attendance.
- 1974: EXPLO '74 premieres in Seoul, Korea, training 300,000 in evangelism and discipleship.
- 1976: "I Found It!", an evangelistic billboard/bumper sticker campaign, is launched along with an 800-number.^[31] 85 percent of all Americans are exposed to the campaign, and by 1978 campaigns are established in more than 100 countries. As a result, more than 3.5 million people become Christians.^[30]
- 1979: *Jesus*, a film based on the Bible's Gospel of Luke, is first released in 250 theaters across the United States.

1980s

- 1982: Campus Crusade's campus ministry sends its first team of students to the Soviet Union.
- 1988: The first Thursday in May is officially declared the National Day of Prayer. Vonette Bright serves as co-chairwoman in its first year.
- 1989: By the end of the 1980s, Campus Crusade is active in 93 countries.



Bill Bright and his wife Vonette in 1980

1990s

- 1990: Delegates from 102 countries attend New Life 2000 in Manila. During the six-month period, the gospel is shared with more than 3.3 million Filipinos.
- 1991: Campus Crusade celebrates its 40th anniversary. Its world headquarters moves to Orlando, Florida, from California.
- 1996: Bill Bright is awarded the \$1.1 million Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, and donates the money to promote the spiritual benefits of fasting and prayer.^[31]
- 1999: Campus Crusade for Christ International's Lake Hart campus is dedicated in Orlando, Florida.



Bill Bright receives the Templeton Prize, 1996

2000s

- 2000: Bill Bright announces Steve Douglass, executive vice president and director of U.S. Ministries, as his successor, effective August 2001.
- 2002: The film *Jesus* is translated into its 800th language.
- 2003: Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ International, dies of complications from pulmonary fibrosis.
- 2006: Led by Steve Douglass, Campus Crusade for Christ International comprises some 60 different ministries and projects in 190 countries around the world.
- 2007: CM2007: Campus Crusade for Christ held a global college student missions conference in Busan, South Korea, from June 30 through July 5, which had around 18,000 participants from different parts of the world. The conference focused on three primary themes: Christ Magnified, Connected Movements, and Completing the Mission. CM2007^[32]

2010s

- 2011: The ministry announces its name will change to "Cru."

Fundraising

- Charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability ^[33].
- Ranks #107 in fundraising efficiency ^[34] among the top 200 U.S. charitable organizations, according to *Forbes* magazine (2007). Ninety-three percent of its funds go directly to programming, and 7% to overhead expenses.
- The top salary for any Campus Crusade employee was \$85,027 in the fiscal year ending August 31, 2006. ^[34]
- In 1995, Campus Crusade for Christ was named the largest religious charity in the United States by U.S. News and World Report, with total annual income of \$189 million dollars.
- In 2008, Chronicle of Philanthropy ^[35] ranks Campus Crusade for Christ #23 in private funding in its "Chronicle of Philanthropy 400," with annual giving of \$514 million dollars. ^[36]
- Ranked #156 in overall efficiency among all U.S. Christian charities, according to Ministry Watch ^[37] ^[38]

Staff members

Campus Crusade for Christ staff members raise funds for the organization to pay their salaries and ministry expenses. All staff have the same base pay adjusted by tenure, life situation (single, married, children), and geographic cost of living ^[39]

Married staff members are considered a missionary team. In practice this means that if single staff members marry, their new spouse must join staff also if they are not on staff already, otherwise the existing staff member must resign. If a prospective member is engaged or plans to marry in the first year, their fiance must apply as well. ^[40]

Campus Crusade for Christ does not invite single parents to join, as they feel the demands of the mission would take away from the single parent's ability to raise their child. ^[41]

Around the world

In many parts of Europe, Campus Crusade is known as Agape Europe [42] or "New Life" in post Soviet countries. The collegiate ministry is known in some parts of the world as Student Life (Poland, New Zealand and Australia); Power to Change and Campus for Christ (Canada); Lembaga Pelayanan Mahasiswa Indonesia (LPMI) In Indonesia; or LIFE Ministry (southeast Africa). The changing of the name of the U.S.-based ministry to Cru will not affect the names of overseas ministries.

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External links

- Campus Crusade for Christ International (<http://www.ccci.org/>)

The Four Spiritual Laws

The Four Spiritual Laws is an evangelistic Christian tract created in 1952 [1] by Bill Bright (1921-2003), founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, the world's largest Christian ministry. Bright wrote the booklet as a means to clearly explain the essentials of the Christian faith concerning salvation.

In the booklet, Bright summarizes the Christian message of salvation contained in the Bible as four spiritual laws that govern our relationship with God, just like there are physical laws that govern the universe.^[2] The four spiritual laws are:

1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life. (John 3:16, John 10:10)
2. Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)
3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life. (Romans 5:8, I Corinthians 15:3-6, John 14:6)
4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. (John 1:12, Ephesians 2:8,9, John 3:1~8, Revelation 3:20)

Use of the tract is widespread^[3] and continues today in various forms and multiple languages by Evangelical Christians in their efforts to explain their faith to non-Evangelical Christians.^[4]

The four Spiritual Laws is now widely used by student organizations working inside campuses such as The Philippine Student Alliance Lay Movement (PSALM). the goal of this apparatus is to share the word of the Lord and help in making people receive the Holy Spirit.

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External links

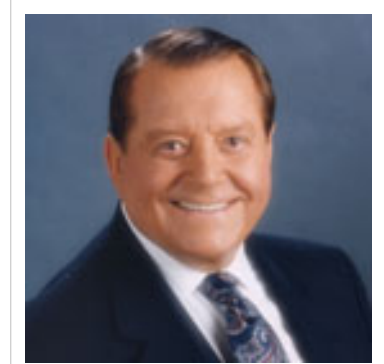
- *The Four Spiritual Laws* at Campus Crusade (http://campuscrusade.com/four_laws_online.htm)
 - *The Four Spiritual Laws* in 144 languages (<http://www.greatcom.org/laws/languages.html>)
 - EveryStudent.com Version of *The Four Spiritual Laws* (<http://www.everystudent.com/features/gettingconnected.html>)
 - *Would You Like to Know God Personally* (<http://www.greatcom.org/laws/englishkqp/default.htm>)
 - How to Use *The Four Spiritual Laws* (<http://www.godsquad.com/squadroom/evangelism/bigsix.htm>)
 - Campus Crusade for Christ International (<http://www.ccci.org>)
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Bill Bright

William R. "Bill" Bright (October 19, 1921 – July 19, 2003) was an American evangelist. The founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, he wrote *The Four Spiritual Laws* in 1952 and produced the *Jesus Film* in 1979.

Early life

Born in Coweta, Oklahoma, Bright described himself as being a "happy pagan" in his youth. He graduated from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma with an Economics degree. While in his early 20s he moved to Los Angeles, California and founded a company called Bright's California Confections.



Bill Bright, 1921-2003

Conversion / Early Ministry

In 1944, while attending the First Presbyterian Church, Hollywood, Bright became an Evangelical Christian. He immediately began intensive Biblical studies which led him to graduate studies at Princeton and Fuller Theological Seminaries (although he never completed a degree at either). It was while he was a student at Fuller that he felt what he regarded as the call of God to help fulfill Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) by sharing his faith, beginning with students at UCLA. This gave birth to the Campus Crusade for Christ movement.

During the decades to follow, Bill Bright and his wife, Vonette, remained faithful to this work, and the ministry expanded greatly. Campus Crusade now has more than 27,000 full-time staff and over 225,000 trained volunteer staff in 190 countries.

Bill Bright's authorized biography is titled 'Amazing Faith' by Michael Richardson with a foreword by Billy Graham.^[1]

Accomplishments

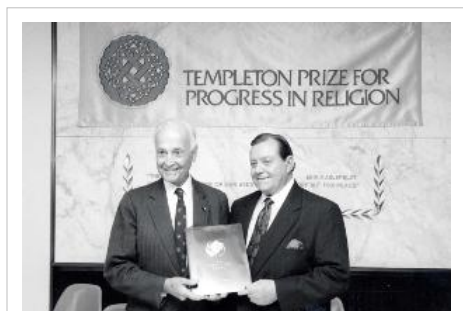
Bright held five honorary doctorate degrees: a Doctor of Laws from the Jeonbuk National University of Korea, a Doctor of Divinity from John Brown University, a Doctor of Letters from Houghton Seminary, a Doctor of Divinity from the Los Angeles Bible College and Seminary, and a Doctor of Laws from Pepperdine University.

In 1983, he chaired the National Committee for the National Year of the Bible. He was named the 1996 recipient of the \$1.1 million Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. He donated the prize money to causes promoting the spiritual benefits of fasting and prayer.

He wrote more than 100 books and booklets, and thousands of articles and pamphlets that have been distributed in most major languages by the millions. He was a signer of the document *Evangelicals and Catholics Together*.

Bright was a co-founder of the Alliance Defense Fund which funds high profile litigation cases on behalf of Christians' First Amendment rights. He was also a co-signatory of the Land letter of 2002 which outlined a just war rationale for the 2003 invasion of Iraq, providing a theological underpinning for the invasion being planned by President George W. Bush.

Bright was survived by his wife Vonette, sons Zachary and Brad, and four grandchildren.



Bill Bright receives the Templeton Prize, 1996

The Rev. Billy Graham released a statement on Bright's death: "He has carried a burden on his heart as few men that I've ever known - a burden for the evangelization of the world. He is a man whose sincerity and integrity and devotion to our Lord have been an inspiration and a blessing to me ever since the early days of my ministry."

References

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External links

- Bill Bright Memorial Website (<http://billbright.ccci.org/public/>)
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- Review of John G. Turner's *Bill Bright and Campus Crusade for Christ* (University of North Carolina Press, 2008) (<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2008/augustweb-only/132-41.0.html>)

Jesus Film Project

The **JESUS Film Project** is an evangelical organization created in 1981 by Campus Crusade for Christ founder Bill Bright to distribute the 1979 film, *Jesus*, not only in English, but many of the world's languages with the stated goal of reaching "every nation, tribe, people and tongue, helping them see and hear the story of Jesus in a language they can understand."

History

Bright wanted to bring a biblically-accurate depiction of the life, ministry, and death of Jesus to the big screen, and in 1978, filming began in the Middle East with British Shakespearean actor Brian Deacon in the role of Jesus.

When the original American theatrical run of *Jesus* ended in 1979, Bright asked Paul Eshleman, who was involved in the production, to head the organization. Eshleman remained in the position until 2004, when Jim Green was named as the organization's executive director ^[1].

International Activities

Since 1981, *Jesus* has been translated into 1,049 languages and shown in 228 nations ^[2]. It is available in DVD, VHS, and audio-only formats. The organization states that, with a cumulative audience in excess of 6 billion, *Jesus* is the most-watched film ever produced.

A specially-made version for children, called *The Story of Jesus for Children* is also available in over 130 languages. ^[3]

External links

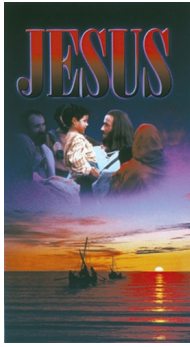
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-

Jesus (1979 film)

<i>Jesus</i>	
	
Directed by	Peter Sykes John Krisch John Heyman (uncredited)
Produced by	John Heyman Richard F. Dalton
Written by	Barnet Bain Luke (book)
Starring	Brian Deacon Yosef Shiloach Rivka Neumann
Music by	Nachium Heiman
Distributed by	Inspirational Films
Release date(s)	October 19, 1979 (US)
Running time	115 min.
Country	United Kingdom Australia United States
Language	English
Budget	\$6 million

Jesus (alternately called *The Jesus Film*), is a 1979 motion picture which depicts the life of Jesus Christ according primarily to the Gospel of Luke in the Bible. It was co-directed by Australian Peter Sykes, British John Heyman and British John Krisch and filmed in Israel.

History

The film's origins date back to 1945 when a young businessman named Bill Bright wanted to privately finance a film about the life of Jesus Christ^[1] that was entertaining, Biblically accurate, and which could be translated into non-English languages. Rather than making a film at that time, Bright went on to found a Christian ministry to reach college students called Campus Crusade for Christ in 1951.

In 1976, with Campus Crusade's influence spreading beyond college campuses to sports, the marketplace and other aspects of society, Bright turned his attention once again to filmmaking. Hollywood's German-born British producer John Heyman approached Bright to fund a project to put the entire Bible on film. The project would eventually be scaled back to just one book of the Bible, the Gospel of Luke, and be financed primarily by Campus Crusade supporters Bunker and Caroline Hunt^[2] for a sum of \$6 million.

A team of 500 scholars and leaders from secular and Christian organizations began to research historical elements for a film about Jesus. Filming took place over the course of several months throughout the Middle East.

Jesus was produced by John Heyman, a German-born British producer. British Shakespearean actor Brian Deacon was hired to play the critical role of Jesus himself. The part of Mary was played by Rivka Neumann, and the part of Joseph by Yosef Shiloach. Former Jesus Film Project director Paul Eshleman, who was on location during much of the principal photography and even had a small non-speaking role as a Roman soldier on horseback, revealed in the DVD's audio commentary^[3] that Deacon (the son of a Catholic mother and a Protestant father), was so committed to the film and its message that he read several Bible translations a day in order to make certain that he properly presented Christ's teachings. Because Deacon developed pneumonia during principal photography, doubles were used in certain scenes. Eshleman also said that Niko Nitai, who played Peter, became a believer during filming and that the man hired to play Jesus' corpse later entered a seminary.

Some locations mentioned in the Bible, such as the Jordan River and what is believed to have been the home of Simon the Tanner, were used in the film.

After each day's filming was completed, the footage was sent to a panel of biblical scholars for review.

Instead of creating a parallel story for the film or embellishing the biblical account, as is the case with other biblical films such as *The Ten Commandments* or *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, the filmmakers chose to adhere as closely as possible to the Gospel of Luke. At the end of the film it states that the Good News Bible (Today's English Version) was used for the filming. Most of the film's dialogue comes from Luke, which was chosen after John Heyman sought advice from clergy and scholars. Many responded that the screenplay should be based on just one Gospel, and that Luke should be used because of its completeness.

Jesus was released by Warner Bros. in the United States. It was not a money-maker, losing approximately \$2 million. While praising its "meticulous attention to authenticity", critics panned *Jesus* for being "painfully monotonous"^[4] ^[5] and "little more than an illustrated gospel, with nothing in the way of historical and social context."^[5] The L.A. Times called it a "...dull Sunday-School treatment of the life of Christ, meticulously but unimaginatively culled from Luke 3-24."^[6]

In 1981, Bill Bright created the Jesus Film Project organization with the goal of accurately translating *Jesus* into other languages and showing them around the world. The first translation was done for the Tagalog-speaking people of the Philippines. The organization works with thousands of missionaries around the world to show the film, sometimes to audiences who have never seen a motion picture. Distribution in the United States has included direct mail campaigns sponsored by churches to deliver a copy of the film to every address in select zip codes across the country. In 2004, the organization made the film available for viewing on its website in over 300 languages. Both *Jesus* and *The Story of Jesus for Children* are available in DVD and VHS formats. Audio dramatizations in a number of languages are also available.

New versions

To make the film more relevant for younger viewers, new footage for *The Story of Jesus for Children* was filmed in 1999. It was then seamlessly interwoven into an edited version of the original film *Jesus* and released in 2000.

In 2001, a new opening sequence depicting the creation of man, the expulsion from Eden, Abraham's aborted sacrifice of his son, and the prophecies of Isaiah was filmed to show, as Paul Eshleman states in the audio commentary, how Jesus' life fits into the span of history.

In 2002 a special edition of *Jesus* commemorating the September 11 attacks was distributed in the VHS format. It contains introductions by New York City firefighters and police officers and has a running time of 83 minutes.

An edited DVD version of *Jesus* was also packaged with *Jesus: Fact or Fiction*, which was produced in 2003 by Inspirational Films. This features a section called the "Journey of Spiritual Discovery." Biblical scholars, historians, philosophers, authors and ministers answer specific questions relating to God, Jesus, Christianity, the archaeological, scientific, and historical accuracy of the Bible, and testimony from many Christian men and women. Viewers can browse the numerous topics individually, or they can watch the film and, when prompted by a "discovery glass" icon, can access relevant comments. After they are finished, the viewer is returned to the scene they were watching.

Statistics

According to *The New York Times*,^[7] *Jesus* is likely the most-watched motion picture of all time.^{[8] [9]} The Jesus Film Project states^[10] that *Jesus* has been viewed almost 5.6 billion times (including repeat viewings). This is based on the following criteria:

- The 1,070 DVD, VHS, and audio-only translations of *Jesus*;^[10]
- The number of showings by the Jesus Film Project's film teams, who operate in nearly 100 nations;^[10] and
- Over 225 million people have indicated a decision to follow Christ after viewing the film.^[10]

However, Vinay Samuel, executive director of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Mission Theologians, is critical of these numbers. Samuel told the *New York Times* that in his opinion, these statistics are "to say the least, not gathered in a social-scientific way."^[7]

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- [2] Come Help Change the World, by Bill Bright, pages 144-145
- [3] DVD audio commentary
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- [5] Tom Buckley (1980-03-28). "Film:"Jesus" at Embassy; according to Luke". *New York Times*.
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- [7] Franklin Foer (2004-02-08). "Baptism by celluloid" (<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/08/movies/baptism-by-celluloid.html>). *New York Times*. .
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External links

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- Jesus: Fact or Fiction? (<http://www.jesuskfactorfiction.org/>)
- *Jesus* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0079368/>) at the Internet Movie Database
- Inspirational Films website (<http://www.inspirationalfilms.com/>)
- Detailed maps of *Jesus* translation for each country of the world (<http://www.worldmap.org/>)
- Article about *Jesus*' status of being the most-translated film in history (<http://www.demosnewspond.com/jfp/releases/1000translation070307.htm>)
- Watch *Jesus* online (<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6121524153548519701&hl=en>)
- Audio bible recordings partnership to provide follow up to each showing of *Jesus* (<http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/jesusk-film/>)

Athletes in Action

Athletes in Action (AIA) is an evangelical Christian sports ministry in the tradition of Muscular Christianity.^[1] ^[2] ^[3] Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, works with athletes and coaches to use the unique platform of sport to help people around the world with questions of faith. The most famous aspect of Athletes in Action is probably its touring basketball teams. These teams are generally composed of former star players in college basketball who for various reasons were unable to hold a position on a team at a professional level, but some just see basketball as a way to minister to others. All are professing evangelical Christians, as are their coaches. These teams are particularly visible in North America in November and early December as they play current college teams. In many instances, Athletes in Action give their testimony at halftime and offer those in the audience an opportunity to be saved by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior. Athletes in Action team has played as the US national team in the 1978 FIBA World Championship.^[4]

UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian once said after a 1977 blowout to AIA, "They beat you up in the first half, pray for you at halftime, then beat you up in the second half."



Indianapolis, 2006: Tony Dungy addresses the crowd at The Legends of the Hardwood Breakfast, hosted annually by Athletes in Action during Final Four weekend.

Super Bowl Breakfast and the Bart Starr Award

Among the events sponsored by Athletes in Action is the NFL-sanctioned Super Bowl Breakfast^[5] which features the presentation of the Athletes in Action/Bart Starr Award "to honor the NFL player who best exemplifies outstanding character and leadership in the home, on the field and in the community."^[6]

Nominees are gathered from the Public Relations Directors of each NFL team, the past winners of the Bart Starr Award, the Athletes in Action Pro Staff working with NFL teams and Bart Starr himself. Ballots are sent to each team and voting takes place at the same time as the Pro Bowl selections. The votes are tabulated and the winner is announced at the annual Super Bowl Breakfast, an NFL-sanctioned event hosted by Athletes in Action, the sports ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. The award, bearing the name of the Pro Football Hall of Famer, honors Starr's lifelong commitment to serving as a positive role model to his family, teammates, and community.

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- [2] John Corrigan (2002). *Business of the Heart: Religion and Emotion in the Nineteenth Century* (http://books.google.com/books?id=MT5QjTGyLSMC&pg=PA264&dq=Muscular+Christianity+Athletes+in+Action&hl=en&ei=ljs3TsbEI8j40gGUt4XSAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=2&ved=0CC4Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Muscular+Christianity+Athletes+in+Action&f=false). University of California Press. . Retrieved 1 August 2011. "The re-emergence of muscular Christianity came about through the activities of organizations such as Youth for Christ, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Athletes in Action, Pro Athletes Outreach, and eventually, the International Sports Coalition."
- [3] Ellis Cashmore; Ernest Cashmore (2000). *Sports Culture: an A-Z guide* (http://books.google.com/books?id=jcic9JoAh9kC&pg=PA318&dq=Muscular+Christianity+Athletes+in+Action&hl=en&ei=ljs3TsbEI8j40gGUt4XSAw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=10&ved=0CFcQ6AEwCQ#v=onepage&q=Muscular+Christianity+Athletes+in+Action&f=false). Taylor & Francis. . Retrieved 1 August 2011. "After the Second World War, muscular Christianity yielded to what some called "Christian muscularity," meaning that sports seemed to generate nearreligious emotion, fervor and zealotry. It is significant that the evangelist Billy Graham selected sports venues such as the Yankee and Wembley stadiums and the Los Angeles Coliseum for his early crusades. Athletes in Action was founded in 1966 as a decision of Graham's Campus Crusades for Christ: star athletes were invited to "share" their conversions publicly."
- [4] 1978 USA Basketball (http://www.usabasketball.com/history/mwc_1978.html)
- [5] Super Bowl Breakfast Official Site (<http://www.superbowlbreakfast.com/>)
- [6] Bart Starr Award (<http://www.superbowlbreakfast.com/award.aspx>)

External links

- Athletes in Action Web site (<http://www.athletesinaction.org/>)
- Athletes in Action Newsroom (<http://www.demosnewspond.com/ccci/aia>)
- Beyond The Ultimate (<http://www.BeyondTheUltimate.org>)

FamilyLife

FamilyLife is a Christian non-profit organization with headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas, USA, and a subsidiary of Campus Crusade for Christ. President Dennis Rainey guides FamilyLife in its mission to "effectively develop godly marriages and families who change the world one home at a time."^[1]

History

Campus Crusade for Christ was created in 1951 with founders, Bill and Vonette Bright, who "had a great desire to help fulfill Christ's Great Commission—taking the gospel to every nation". Starting on one college campus with one couple, Campus Crusade has grown into a multifaceted ministry with tens of thousands of full-time and associate staff serving in more than 196 countries.

In 1976, Campus Crusade for Christ began Family Ministry to provide pre-marriage seminars for its staff members. Following the success in meeting the needs of pre-marrieds, married staff couples began asking for encouragement through marriage seminars. Community leaders and pastors soon found out about the seminars and said they were exactly what couples needed—the blueprints on how to build strong homes. Family Ministry, now called "FamilyLife", opened their marriage conferences to the public in 1978.

FamilyLife consists of a volunteer network of more than 10,000 members. Many are helping FamilyLife reach families by serving as city ministry directors for a marriage conference or by leading a HomeBuilders Couples Series study.

Conferences and events

Since 1976 more than 1.5 million people have attended conferences, and this year approximately 100 FamilyLife Weekend to Remember conferences will be held in almost every major city in America.

Resources

FamilyLife has a publishing subsidiary 'FamilyLife Publishing' that offers 42 books in their inventory. Some of their resources include HomeBuilders Couples Series, HomeBuilders Parenting Series, and What God Wants for Christmas.

FamilyLife has also educated over 850,000 children about the meaning of Easter through its Resurrection Eggs and the World's Largest Easter Egg Hunt.^[2]

In 2011, they launched a video-based marriage enrichment event entitled The Art of Marriage, designed to make the marriage principles from the Weekend to Remember conferences accessible to all communities.^[3]


Radio

FamilyLife Today, hosted by Bob Lepine and Dennis Rainey, is FamilyLife's most popular radio program and can be heard on top Christian stations across the country, providing practical, biblical answers to the issues couples and families face. Other FamilyLife programs include: *FamilyLife This Week*, *Real FamilyLife*, *FamilyLife Sunday Nights*, and *Revive Our Hearts* with Nancy Leigh DeMoss.

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 - [3] Christian Telegraph (<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue12227.html>)
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Josh McDowell

Josh McDowell	
	
Born	Joslin McDowellAugust 17, 1939 ^[1] Union City, Michigan
Occupation	Writer, Public speaker
Nationality	United States
Genres	Christian literature
Subjects	Christian apologetics

Joslin "Josh" McDowell is a Christian apologist, evangelist, and writer. He is within the Evangelical tradition of Protestant Christianity, and is the author or co-author of some 77 books. His best-known book is *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, which was ranked 13th in Christianity Today's list of most influential evangelical books published after World War II.^[2] Other well known titles are *More Than a Carpenter*, *A Ready Defense* and *Right from Wrong*.

Biography

Family and education

McDowell was born in Union City, Michigan in 1939 with the given name Joslin.^[3] He was one of five children born to Wilmot McDowell, Sr. Biographer Joe Musser indicates that McDowell struggled with low self-esteem in his youth, as his father was an alcoholic and abusive.^[4] McDowell also revealed he was sexually abused repeatedly as a child by a hired farm hand from the age of 6 to 13.^[5] He enlisted in the Air National Guard, received basic training and assumed duties in mechanical maintenance of aircraft. After sustaining a head injury he was discharged from the service.

He initially intended to pursue legal studies culminating in a political career, and began preparatory studies at Kellogg Community College, a two-year junior college in Battle Creek, Michigan. According to McDowell, he was as an agnostic at college when he decided to prepare a paper that would examine the historical evidence of the Christian faith in order to disprove it. However, he converted to Christianity, after, as he says, he found evidence for it, not against it. He subsequently enrolled at Wheaton College, Illinois, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then studied at Talbot Theological Seminary of Biola University, La Mirada, California. He completed an

exit paper examining the theology of Jehovah's Witnesses, and was awarded the Master of Divinity degree graduating Magna Cum Laude.

In 1982 McDowell was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Simon Greenleaf School of Law, now Trinity Law School, in recognition of his ministry and writings. McDowell was also a visiting lecturer at that school in the 1980s. Josh McDowell married Dottie Youd, with whom he has four children; they live in Dallas, Texas.^[6]

Career and ministry

In 1964, he became a traveling representative of Campus Crusade for Christ International. Campus Crusade for Christ is a parachurch ministry that operates student chapters on university and college campuses, and was established by the late Bill Bright in the 1950s. To this day, his close affiliation with the organization continues.

McDowell's full-time ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ began with his appointment as a campus speaker in Latin America, where he interacted with both Marxist and Fascist student groups. He subsequently returned to North America where he became known as an itinerant speaker addressing campus groups about the Christian faith.

He gained wide fame as a Christian apologist with the publication of *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* in 1972.

Part of his speaking ministry has focused on youth issues in relationships and sexual mores, and is reflected in seminars such as "Maximum Sex" and the "Why Wait?" campaign that encourages sexual abstinence before marriage. Other facets of his speaking ministry and writing have focused on issues of self-esteem (*His Image, My Image*), and developing faith and character (*Evidence for Joy*). In the 1980s he also co-ordinated a three month residential discipleship program in a retreat center called The Julian Center, near San Diego.

McDowell is best known for his many seminars, debates and books in Christian apologetics. In his role as a popular apologist McDowell has spoken across the United States, and in many other nations including the Republic of South Africa and Australia.

In 1983, the Josh McDowell Ministry headquarters moved to Richardson, TX, and in October, 2009 moved to nearby Plano, TX. The ministry employs a staff of 75 people with affiliate offices located throughout the country. Josh McDowell is the founder of the Christian ministries Josh.org and Operation Carelift. Operation Carelift is an international humanitarian aid ministry that is run by the Global Aid Network (GAIN) in Dallas, Texas which is a branch of Campus Crusade for Christ. The ministry began in 1991 in the republics of the former Soviet Union.^[7]

Method of apologetics

As a practitioner of Christian apologetics, McDowell's writings have concentrated on addressing challenges to belief, questions posed by non-Christians, doubts about faith, and non-Christian religions. McDowell tends to present positive arguments to commend belief in Jesus Christ by emphasizing historical and legal proofs in an attempt to establish the authenticity of the Biblical texts and the divinity of Christ.

In books such as *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, *The Resurrection Factor*, and *He Walked Among Us*, McDowell has arranged his arguments by laying out a cumulative case of evidences, such as archaeological discoveries, the extant manuscripts of the biblical texts, fulfilled prophecies, and the miracle of the resurrection. In *More Than A Carpenter* he blended historical argument with legal arguments concerning the direct witness and circumstantial evidences for Jesus' life and resurrection. He employed a similar line of argument in his debate titled 'Was Christ crucified?' with the South African Muslim apologist Ahmed Deedat in Durban during August, 1981.^[8] McDowell claims that the "evidence for Christianity in the Scriptures is not exhaustive, but it is sufficient."^[9]

Much of his evidentialist work is similar to the views of apologists such as John Warwick Montgomery, Norman Geisler, Gleason Archer, and Gary Habermas.

Other foci of his apologetics have included challenging the methodology, assumptions and conclusions drawn in higher criticism of the Old Testament and form and redaction criticism of the gospels. His work in this area has consisted of a popular summary of scholarly debate, particularly from Evangelical discussions about higher critical

theories. In the late 1980s and into the 1990s his apologetic writings interacted with challenges expressed in popular books like *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*, *The Lost Years of Jesus*, and the writings of the humanist George A. Wells.

He has also collated apologetic arguments concerning the doctrine of Christ's deity as in *Jesus: A Biblical Defense of His Deity*. In two companion volumes he and his colleague Don Stewart have addressed popular questions and objections to faith concerning biblical inerrancy and Bible discrepancies, Noah's Flood, and creation versus evolution.

McDowell and Stewart have also popularised the arguments of other apologists in the Christian countercult movement, particularly the work of Walter Martin, in the *Handbook of Today's Religions*. In their criticisms of cults and occult beliefs McDowell and Stewart concentrate on doctrinal apologetic questions, especially pertaining to the deity of Christ, and pointing out "heretical" beliefs in the religious groups they profile which they consider to be unorthodox.

McDowell's approach to apologetics falls under what Protestant theologians classify as "classical" and "evidential." In either of these approaches to Christian apologetics, it is assumed that arguments defending the Christian faith can legitimately be directed to both believers and unbelievers because the human mind is viewed as able to comprehend certain truths about God. Presuppositional apologetics, by contrast, regards the effects of sin on the human mind as so pervasive that the value and usefulness of apologetics for unbelievers is called into question.

The Emerging Church's Tim Keel regards McDowell's approach to apologetics as coercive: "apologetics [is] a particularly Western way of arguing people into submission by anticipating every possible argument they might come up with and having a rational argument prepared in response. Josh McDowell's book betrays this cultural context: *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*."^[10]

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- *The One Year Book of Josh McDowell's Youth Devotions*, with Bob Hostetler, Tyndale House, Wheaton, 1997.
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- *See yourself as God sees you*, Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois, 1999.
- *Disconnected Generation: Saving Our Youth From Self-Destruction*, Word, Nashville, 2000.
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- *The Last Christian Generation*, Green Key Books, Holiday, Florida, 2006.
- *The Da Vinci Code: A Quest For Answers* ^[11] by Josh McDowell (free pdf book, 2006, 112 pp, ISBN 1932587802)
- *Evidence for the Resurrection*, Regal Books, Ventura, California, 2009.

Biography

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External links

- The Official Website of the Josh McDowell Ministry (<http://www.josh.org>)
- Interview with Josh McDowell (<http://www.faithtalks.com/posts/josh-mcdowell/>)
- Josh McDowell's Story (http://www.christianstoriesonline.com/josh_mcdowell.html)
- Evidence for the Resurrection (<http://www.leaderu.com/everystudent/easter/articles/josh2.html>) by Josh McDowell
- See Josh on youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/JoshMcDowell>)
- The Da Vinci Code: A Quest For Answers ([http://joshmcdowellmedia.org/FreeBooks/A Quest for Answers The Da Vinci Code.pdf](http://joshmcdowellmedia.org/FreeBooks/A%20Quest%20for%20Answers%20The%20Da%20Vinci%20Code.pdf)) by Josh McDowell (free pdf ebook, 2006, 112 pp, ISBN 1932587802)

Christian Embassy

The **Christian Embassy** is an evangelical organization affiliated with Campus Crusade for Christ. Like its parent organization, Christian Embassy describes itself as non-political and interdenominational.

Mission statement

The Christian Embassy website ^[1], describes its mission this way,

"We believe that the workplace offers endless opportunities for people to explore and apply what they believe to what they do for a living. We provide safe places and practical resources to help national and international leaders working in D.C., their spouses and staffs integrate their faith and their work."

Overview

The Christian Embassy was started in 1974 by Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, and then-congressman for Arizona John Conlan, in order to serve as a spiritual resource to leaders working in Congress, the Executive Branch, and the diplomatic community.

The Christian Embassy runs a number of offices in cities around the world, including Washington D.C. and New York City. It is a Christian ministry, a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit company, and its United Nations office is a recognized Non-Governmental Organization.

Timeline

[2]

- 1975 - Founded in Washington D.C.
 - 1980 - Opened United Nations office
 - 1985 - First annual International Prayer Breakfast on the Opening Day of the United Nations General Assembly
 - 1990 - UN office officially accredited as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).
 - 2006 - Washington D.C. office widely covered in the news media after the organization films a promotional video with several prominent military officers in uniform in the Pentagon.
-

Pentagon Promotional Video Controversy

In 2004, Christian Embassy filmed a promotional video featuring endorsements by six Congressmen, two ambassadors, two ambassadors' wives, the Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. It also included two civilian employees of the Department of Defense, and seven military officers, the latter filmed in uniform at the Pentagon and identified by name and rank. After the video was posted on the Christian Embassy's website in November, 2006, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, a group led by retired Air Force lawyer Michael Weinstein, requested an investigation in a letter to the Department's Inspector General.^[3] (The video was subsequently removed, but may still be viewed here^[4].)

In July, 2007, the Inspector General issued a report on "Alleged Misconduct by DoD Officials Concerning Christian Embassy".^[5] The report concluded that some of the individuals filmed in the video did not violate any policies, but that others had violated DoD policy by endorsing the Christian Embassy while in uniform. Furthermore, Chaplain (Colonel) Ralph G. Benson had provided a "selective benefit" to Christian Embassy by obtaining permission for them to film the promotional video in the Pentagon, and that he had done so by "mischaracterizing the purpose and proponent of the video."^[6]^[7]

Participating Army generals were Robert L. Caslen Jr., Vincent K Brooks and Air Force generals Peter U. Sutton and Jack J. Catton Jr.^[8]

Links

- Christian Embassy, Washington D.C.^[1]
- Christian Embassy, Mission to the United Nations^[9]
- Inspector General's Report on *Alleged Misconduct by DoD Officials Concerning Christian Embassy*. 5.6Mb^[10]

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- [1] <http://www.christianembassy.com>
- [2] Christian Embassy UN office - history (<http://www.christianembassyun.org/history>)
- [3] Inquiry Sought Over Evangelical Video (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/10/AR2006121000883.html>) by Alan Cooperman, Washington Post
- [4] http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/080307A.shtml
- [5] http://www.dodig.osd.mil/fo/Foia/ERR/Xtian_Embassy_072707.pdf
- [6] Pulling Rank on Religion (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/12/AR2007081200968.html>)
- [7] Not so fast, Christian soldiers (<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-aslan22aug22,0,4674900.story?coll=la-opinion-center>)
- [8] Report Says Pentagon Erred In Allowing Christian Video - Church and State - September 2007 (<http://www.britannica.com/bps/additionalcontent/18/27689400/Report-Says-Pentagon-Erred-In-Allowing-Christian-Video>)
- [9] <http://www.christianembassyun.org>
- [10] http://www.dodig.osd.mil/fo/Foia/ERR/Xtian_Embassy_072707.pdf

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