From: Tony Romeo / REACH-NYC <anthony@reach-nyc.ccsend.com> on behalf of Tony Romeo / REACH-NYC <romeo.anthonyj@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2014 8:02 AM
To: Adventist Heritage Center
Subject: Jesus goes Hollywood
Wendy

Jesus goes Hollywood.

We live in a world of spin. We live in a world that is basically an illusion created by fables, a vast array of media portals, and every opportunity to sell us something. Even Jesus has gone Hollywood.

Having a 30 year background in the creative process, I am familiar with the art of fiction. The art of the "green screen" that actors stand in front of an illusions are created to make the viewer believe that what they are seeing is real. I am an admirer of the art of film and certainly of the vast creative genius that the artistic filmmakers create to portray actors flying through space, when they are really hanging from rigs or computer generated images that make the unreal seem real.

Today, many churches around the world have become familiar with the world of illusion. The need for "lights, camera, action" since many correctly feel that even Jesus needs a touch of Hollywood to make an impact and entertain a mind that is already filled with images of spectacular illusion.

This is nothing new, as the church I pastor has been blessed with the creative art of stain glass windows to give one a sense of the beauty of God and a glimpse of the stories found in the Bible.

It would seem to me that there really isn't anything wrong with bringing Hollywood into the church, but there is something very wrong if illusion takes the place in a personal experience with Jesus Christ. You see, illusion can only take you so far and it only lasts for the few minutes that one is entertained by the touch of the artist.

What I am seeking for my life, is a personal connection with Jesus Christ that is not based on the bells and whistles found during a worship service or the entertainment value of a guest speaker, or whatever "thing" that is replacing a quiet personal walk with Christ.

A Bible writer put it this way when he spoke about Jesus Christ, and stated it pre-green screen, pre-computer, pre-visual effects, pre-surround sound, pre-smart phones, pre-stain glass...

"We weren't, you know, just wishing on a star when we laid the facts out before you regarding the powerful return of our Master, Jesus Christ. We were there for the preview! We saw it with our own eyesw: Jesus resplendent with light from God the Father as the voice of Majestic Glory spoke: 'This is my Son, marked by my love, focus of all my delight.' We were there on the holy mountain with him. We heard the voice out of heaven with our very own ears."

2 Peter 1:16 (The Message)

May God bless each of us with the gift of seeing Jesus for ourselves, learning of Him with the gift that the Holy Spirit can bring us in quiet space, away from the vast illusions all around us competing for our attention. God bless you with peace today and a personal walk with the very real Jesus.

Best regards - Tony Romeo

Join us for a Spirit filled morning of great music and the sharing of the Word. We gather or worship on Saturday morning's at 11:30 a.m. in the 1881 landmark sanctuary of Historic Manhattan.
Seventh-day Adventist Church, 232 West 11th Street, NYC. Located just 1.5 blocks West of Seventh Ave. South and one and a half blocks East of West 4th Street, in the beautiful West Village.

**PARKING:** If you are traveling by car and cannot find a parking space on the street, we recommend a discount indoor parking garage located on West 12th Street. Travel down Seventh Ave. South and on the corner of West 12th Street, make a left turn. The indoor parking garage is located immediately on your left. The discounted parking fee is good from when you arrive until 7 PM.

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