

# FILM THE BIBLE reel news

Our Mission: *To translate the Bible from the written word to film and to disseminate it throughout the world so that every person can experience the power of the Word of God.*

## The Billy Bob Bible



**By Tim Donoho**  
**CHAIRMAN**

readers from our great mission of filming

**B**elieve it or not, I try to avoid being controversial in my columns for the "Reel News". I enjoy writing and there are many topics I feel very passionate about that I would enjoy expressing myself on, but for fear of distracting our

the Bible, I resist temptation. That said, this column is bound to tick off many of you. What makes my decision on this different from other controversial topics is that this one is topical to filming the Bible.

As I've described before, it is Film the Bible's intention to put on film as many different translations of the Bible as financially possible. The reason for this is that, for a variety of reasons, most people who actually read the Bible, read it from only one version and have a strong preference for that version. I find the King James Version, for the average person, including me, to be difficult to understand. Other people love the

poetry of its language. In the alternative, millions read the NIV version for both its faithfulness to the original languages of the Bible and its intelligibility. Still others prefer "The Message" which is actually a paraphrase but which is written in the form of a book and is in modern language which illuminates in a way that other Bibles may not. Of course there are dozens, if not hundreds, of other versions of the Bible. Each has its proponents and detractors. Since Film the Bible doesn't have an axe to grind on which version you prefer, we will attempt to do it in as many different versions and as many different languages as God provides the

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## The Gift of Encouragement



**By David Rutherford**  
**PRESIDENT**

**S**ummer is upon us. School is out and life begins to slow down just a bit. For many of you, it will be a time for relaxation, well-deserved vacations and a break from your everyday routine. While vacations may afford you the opportunity to take a break, be certain you don't take a break from God. There is the temptation to go on vacation

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*  
I Timothy 6:6,7

and sort of let our church (or Film the Bible) babysit God until we get back but it doesn't work that way. We need God in our lives vacation or not. He never takes a vacation from us so why in the world would we want to take a break from Him?

I was visiting with a friend the other day and he was telling me about his upcoming vacation. For him, one of the blessings of his annual vacation is the opportunity to be reminded once again that life is a gift from God, not a right. Whether he is visiting the mountains or walking along a beach, he marvels at the beauty and wonder of God's creation and rediscovers the true meaning of contentment. Chuck Swindoll says that you and I will miss out on true contentment if keeping rather than releasing remains our objective. All too often we love things and use people when we should be

using things and loving people. We are most content when we are grateful for what we have, satisfied with what we make, and generous to those in need.

Don't take a vacation from God this summer. Use your vacation to deepen your relationship with Him and with your family and friends. Don't take a vacation from your church or from the mission of Film the Bible this summer either. The work of your church continues, as does the work of Film the Bible and your ongoing financial support is indispensable. In addition, take time to remember Film the Bible in your prayers...sponsor your pastor in the Pastors' Golf Tour...and register your choir to sing in the World's Largest Choir Project.

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# The Billy Bob Bible - *Continued from page 1*

finances to do so.

My concern is not whether you prefer the American Standard or the Living Bible. My concern is whether you are reading the Billy Bob Bible. Even worse, is the question, "Are you spreading the

**My God's rules don't change from day to day, week to week, year to year with changes in fashions, styles, political parties changing offices or social norms adjusting to be more and more inclusive.**

gospel of the Billy Bob Bible to those who don't know the difference between a literal translation and the Billy Bob Bible?"

The controversy of this article arises from the fact that at least 90% of my Christian and Jewish friends and acquaintances profess to believe in the One, true God, and to be a follower of the One, true God. Yet, they believe that the Billy Bob Bible is the true word of God. And share the idiosyncrasies of the Billy Bob Bible with those who ask or worse yet, those who will listen, voluntarily or involuntarily.

Because these are my friends and acquaintances I've tried to understand their perspective. In fact, I often enquire as to how they arrived at their belief in the Billy Bob Bible. Quite often, when I have enquired, they have reacted as if I'd asked to see their underwear, as if somehow to enquire as to why you believe in a certain version of the Bible was far too intrusive a question for a friend to ask.

I like to think of myself as a very linear thinker and so I often walk people through this line of questioning.

"Do you believe in God?"

"Yes."

"Do you believe that we come to know God through His word?"

"Yes." (How else would any of us know about His character and His deeds if not for His words.)

"Do you believe that God is supernatural and able to accomplish anything?"

"Yes."

"Then how do you suppose a perfect Being, the One who created the universe, would allow His word to be written down and passed down wrong? That He would allow Himself to be misrepresented?"

"Huh?"

You see, it's logical, linear and frankly, quite simple for me to believe that a Being who had the power to create the universe and all that's in it, also has the power to control the method that He chooses to communicate with us. And that He chooses to do so, because otherwise we wouldn't know Him as He wishes to be known.

Many have argued for years that the Bible that we read has been completely botched up through hundreds of years of different translations and flawed men's writings and personal agendas. However, all those arguments fell by the wayside for anyone with an IQ over room temperature when the Dead Sea scrolls were found and compared to our current Bibles, which were found to be faithful to the original writings.

The Dead Sea scrolls don't, however, keep millions of people from taking the Word of God and dissecting it themselves and unilaterally deciding that "I'm going to believe this" and "I'm not going to believe that." "I don't want a God who would do this" and "I do want a God who will do that"! They are Billy Bobbing the Bible! They are either emotionally or physically tearing out certain passages, certain pages, certain chapters or even certain books of the Bible, thereby creating their own version of the Bible. Now, obviously, everyone who has done this is not named Billy Bob. But, insert your own name if this is your practice.

Let's say you have a sin that the Bible counsels against, but you don't want to confess and give up that sin, so you just tear that page out. Or you don't like to

believe in anything that might be a supernatural happening after the book of Genesis, virgin birth, raising of the dead, tear those pages out! Let's say that your family habits don't conform to how God has taught us to behave as husbands and wives. Just ignore those passages! You've customized your Bible. Your business ethics don't meet up to God's standards. No problem! Excise those passages. How about you refuse to accept that God would destroy His enemies? That's not a problem for anyone with a pair of scissors, now is it?

Now, you have a Billy Bob Bible, a Bible that conforms to your every belief and nothing else! The only problem is that you also now have a Billy Bob god. I often hear people say, "I could never worship a God who did X or excluded X." No problem. You simply don't worship the same God that I do. Of course, there are some advantages to the god you worship. For instance, I can't physically see my God. Your god is seen everyday when you

**You see, it's logical, linear and frankly, quite simple for me to believe that a Being who had the power to create the universe and all that's in it, also has the power to control the method that He chooses to communicate with us.**

stand in front of the bathroom mirror. My God's rules don't change from day to day, week to week, year to year with changes in fashions, styles, political parties changing offices or social norms adjusting to be more and more inclusive. Your god is very adaptive. He (or she) fits in, is far more sociable and much more acceptable in mixed company.

And on the day that you and I both die, we are both going to face the real God. If his name is Billy Bob.....you win!

# FILM THE BIBLE PRESENTS...



## Pastors' Golf Tour

Say "Thank You!!" to your pastors and show your support for all their hard work and dedication plus support the Film the Bible project all at the same time!

144 pastors, priests, ministers, and rabbis will compete in the Pastors' Golf Tour - it's FREE to them and the **Winner of each Tournament will win a brand new car or SUV!**

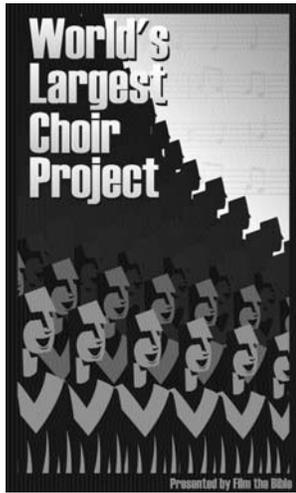
Thousands of churchgoers just like you will be cheering on their pastors during two exciting days of fun, food, fellowship and GOLF! Just call to get involved. This is your congregation's chance to Show your Care. Support a Great Cause and ENJOY!

### PGT TOUR DATES:

Broward County - August 27-28, 2004

Dade County - October 22-23, 2004

Space is limited. Get your Pastor involved now by calling Lee at (954)658-6014 or visit our website at [www.pastorsgolftour.org](http://www.pastorsgolftour.org)



## World's Largest Choir Project

Imagine you or your church's choir joining forces with many dozens of other church choirs to perform in a mass choir event potentially larger than any before ever assembled for a concert.

Well, consider this a personal invitation for your church's choir to participate in precisely that...a mass choir event to launch The World's Largest Choir Project presented by Film the Bible on Saturday evening, October 30, 2004.

This is a unique and exciting way to showcase the passion and talent of church choirs while bringing the people of God together for an unforgettable evening of entertainment and inspiration in support of Film the Bible's world-changing vision. Imagine the fun you and your choir will have preparing to perform new music. Envision the excitement that will build as you anticipate joining your voices with hundreds of fellow church singers on the night of the concert. Picture yourselves participating in a *record setting choir event* with the ultimate goal of supporting the production of a filmed Bible for the world.

For additional information or to register for this event, visit our website at [www.worldslargestchoir.org](http://www.worldslargestchoir.org) or call our offices and ask for David Rutherford (954) 597-8400.



## Caribbean Island Adventure III

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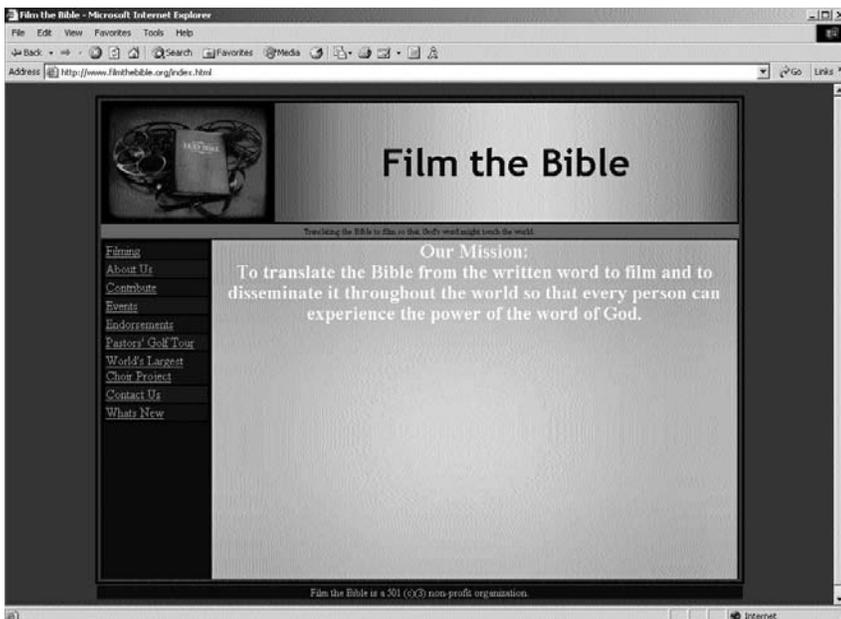
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Registration deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>

# Our New Website

We have revamped our website to make it more accessible to everyone. It should be easy to access, simple to navigate through, and easily readable with text large enough to see without using magnifying glasses. Don't take our word for it though; check it out for yourselves and let us know what you think.

[www.filmthebible.org](http://www.filmthebible.org)



## You Can Count on My Support for that Perfect Gift !

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