

# 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.*

## Uneaten Cupcakes



By **Tim Donoho**  
CHAIRMAN

**M**y wife, Deborah, and I just returned last night from attending the U.S. Open at Shinnecock in the Hamptons of New York. I had the pleasure of attending the U.S. Open because Deborah gave it to me as a Christmas present

this past season.

While staying at the quaint Hunting Inn in East Hampton, I was leafing through one of their many high society

magazines and came across something quite interesting. Some charity had thrown a "Cupcake Ball", where each participant, upon arrival, received a very large, beautifully decorated, mouth-watering cupcake. Now I don't know what the significance of giving out the cupcakes was. However, I can tell you what I found significant. Amongst pages of pictures of these beautiful size 2 trophy wives and trophy wives-to-be, not a single one had taken a single bite of their cupcake. That is to say, each one had in their possession a cupcake, but not one was actually enjoying that delightful mound of carbohydrates and calories.

The more pictures that I looked at, the more amused I became. It became painfully obvious that, if you are going to be

a size 2, you can have a cupcake, you simply can not consume it. Therefore it was an illusion that these beautiful women could enjoy this bounty of bakery bedazzlement, which they held in their hands.

It struck me that millions of people see heaven in a similar light. Here is this beautiful thing that beckons you. You want it terribly. But you are afraid of the side effect (the Christian walk) that comes before you receive eternal life in heaven.

Just like the cupcakes at the "Cupcake Ball", heaven is a free gift from our Holy Father. Why is it then that so many millions will never receive this free gift? Why is it that this thing that was created in total and complete beauty, something that everyone desires, is rejected or deferred

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## Effort, Success and Milestones



By **Karen Metzger**  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

*"How wonderful to be wise, to be able to analyze and interpret things. Wisdom lights up a person's face, softening its hardness." (Ecclesiastes 8:1).*

**G**raduations are over by now for those students completing senior year of high school. Did each pass the test, complete the requirements and receive his or her diploma or did some just walk proudly across the stage knowing that the goal had

not yet been achieved. Certainly there were shouts of joy from the many family and friends gathered to watch this once-in-a-lifetime achievement reach its reward. And there was much excitement in the air, as was the sense that everyone had cause to celebrate. The knowledge of each one's success, however, lay in the hearts of just a few, the student, the parents and the teachers.

Receiving one's diploma is a milestone in life, not the first and not the last that a person achieves along life's highway, and it is one that each person remembers in his own special way. While the milestones are important pillars to reach, what may be more important to recall are the efforts that were necessary to reach each milestone in the first place. In every aspect of life it takes effort

to achieve. Some seem to have the good fortune to excel at everything without much effort at all, some must struggle to achieve only the smallest if any success, and perhaps most find that they struggle in varying degrees to reach their many goals. The aspects of life where this is true are many: in educational experiences, in relationships, in marriage, in employment and in our spiritual lives.

Step out into the business world and there will be many similarities to the experiences from our high school days: a new teacher - a new boss; new classmates - new coworkers; new subjects - new work projects; making the honor roll - getting a promotion; being sent to the Principal's office - getting fired. You

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## Uneaten Cupcakes - *Continued from page 1*

by the vast majority?

I suggest to you that the reasons for it, as explained by those who refuse to receive the gift, are varied but overwhelmingly come down to ignorance of what the Christian walk means. Some believe that it requires personal enslavement; that those of us who live the Christian life don't have any freedom. But free will is a cornerstone of Christianity. Some believe that you must become exclusionary. Yet what other religion invites every one to come and partake? Some believe that Christians give up their sexuality and yet research demonstrates that the most sexually active and fulfilled people on earth are married Christians.

So how do we overcome that ignorance? Well, as you can imagine, I believe that the answer to this is very simple. We must inform the world as to what the Christian life is. When the Word of God was passed down in the oral tradition,

that brought many people to the faith. And then, from Guttenberg's time on, the written tradition has brought many more. But now, my friends, it's time for (and may I say, more than time for) Christianity and Judaism to step into the 21st Century and provide the true Word of God in a medium that people will actually consume on a broad basis, and that of course is on video.

If you see heaven as an exclusive country club that you should be a part of, but, not too many others, then let's stay on the path that we're on. But if you see it as God sees it, as a home for everyone if you'll only trust in Him, then we need to all step up and all become a part of this magnificent offer. Some of you could give a dramatic gift, financially. Some could introduce us to others who have the same ability but who we are not connected to. Others of you could give of your own personal talents to Film the Bible. So many of you that read this newsletter give sacri-

financially each month and for that I am deeply and daily thankful. Possibly today you could think of one or two others that you know who might want to join this great mission and bring the filmed Bible into reality.

Now I can tell you for sure that if Deborah and I had been invited to the "Cupcake Ball", the picture of Deborah would have been of a woman with empty hands and frosting on her lips! What's more, Deborah wears a size 2 (or at least an even multiplier). Whatever her size, she'll always be my Cupcake and heaven will always be my destination. My only hope is that, with all of us working together on behalf of God that millions more can partake of this incredible gift that's being offered to all of us.

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## Effort, Success and Milestones - *Continued from page 1*

get the idea! It was Solomon who said, "Whatever exists today and whatever will exist in the future has already existed in the past. For God calls each event back in its turn." (Ecclesiastes 3:15)

During 2003 Film the Bible's program concentration was in Pursuing the Vision, where an army of pastors brought the message of the Ministry to churches of differing denominations and diverse worship styles. These persistent efforts led to many people learning about this great vision to place the word of God on film, which in turn resulted in hundreds of new donors to the Film the Bible project. Referring to those categories of effort and success mentioned earlier, we can characterize our income similarly: donations small as well as large that arrive like clockwork, donations that are sporadic yet consistently so, and those donations intending to be sent. Spoken many years ago, Solomon's words are alive today for us to heed: "It is better to say nothing than to promise something that you don't follow through on." (Ecclesiastes 5:5)

In 2002 what started out as a gift to the Ministry from a friend has blossomed into the third planned excursion to the Caribbean, the first two years being to St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands and

this year to La Romana in the Dominican Republic. The newness of hosting an away-from-the-mainland travel adventure and fundraising auction required the combined efforts of the Board of Directors as well as staff to meet the requirements of this initiative. On both occasions in St. Croix, new friends from the States traveled to and new friends on the Island came and created exciting opportunities to build relationships while at the same time raise funds successfully for Film the Bible. While 2003 was a greater milestone than the year prior, this year promises even more - with different people traveling to an entirely new location. More information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. Again we listen to what Solomon said, "Notice the way God does things; then fall into line. Don't fight the ways of God for who can straighten out what he has made crooked?" (Ecclesiastes 7:13)

In 2004 two new divisions of Film the Bible were birthed, the Pastors' Golf Tour and the World's Largest Choir Project, each with events planned for later in the year, each with a different focus but each with the goal to raise funds to film the bible. The planning for these projects began weeks ago, volumes of phone conversations have been held, and people have

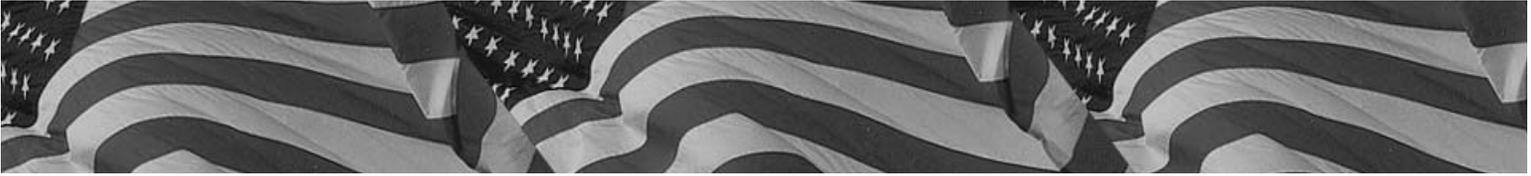
begun to sign up to play or sponsor the golf event as well as sign up to sing in the choir. As for the success and milestones to be achieved, we hear from Solomon more words of wisdom: "So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people to do in this world than to eat, drink and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them." (Ecclesiastes 8:15)

At this writing we are half way through this calendar year but we still have another six months before the year is completed. We will continue to be faithful in the little things that might be required and we will periodically report the progress of our efforts, successes and milestones in these initiatives. As Solomon suggests, "Whatever you do, do well. For when you go to the grave, there will be no work or planning or knowledge or wisdom." (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

As for you who are reading this article, do these words of Solomon tug at *your* efforts in this project? "Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later. Divide your gifts among many, for you do not know what risks might lie ahead." (Ecclesiastes 11:1)

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# Passions of Our Founding Fathers



*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2Ch 7:14*

With the memory of another July 4th celebration still somewhat fresh in our minds, I want us to look beyond the fireworks and cookouts for just a moment. Since we justifiably celebrate our freedom and liberty with such passion each year, I thought it would be interesting to examine a specific passion of our founding fathers....the Bible.

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

"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book." Abraham Lincoln

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." George Washington

"The Bible is the sheet-anchor of our liberties." U. S. Grant

"The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed." Patrick Henry

"That book, sir, is the rock on which our republic rests." Andrew Jackson

"In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength." Robert E. Lee

"So great is my veneration for the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens of their country and respectable members of society. I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once every year." John Quincy Adams

"The Bible is the cornerstone of Liberty." Thomas Jefferson

"It (the Bible) is the support of the strong and the consolation of the weak; the dependence of organized government and the foundation of religion." Calvin Coolidge

"There is no other book so full of concentrated wisdom. As a nation we are indebted to the Book of Books for our national ideals and represented institutions." Herbert Hoover

"The Bible is the Word of Life." "When you have read the Bible, you will know it is the word of God, because you will have found it the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty." Woodrow Wilson

"Any individual or institution that could take the Bible to every home in this country would do more for the country than all the armies from the beginning of our history to the present time." David J. Brewer, U.S. Supreme Court Justice 1889-1910

Film the Bible seeks not only to take the Bible to every home in this country but every home in this world using the technology and communication method of our postmodern world. We invite you to join us and become part of this very process.

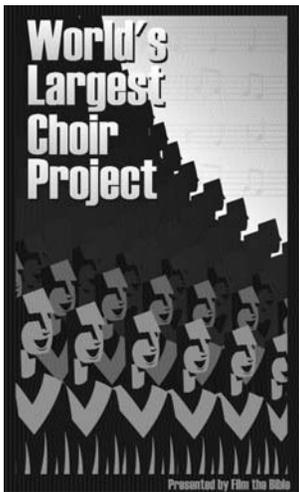
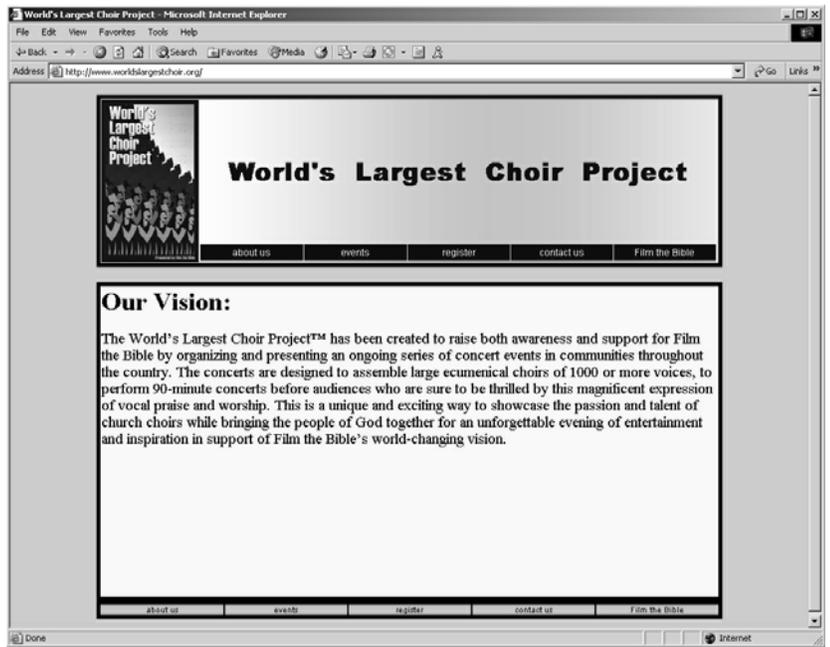
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# World's Largest Choir Project Website

Can you name that tune? Can you carry a tune? Can you ... sing a song? Or are you one of the many who would love to have a successful singing career but must leave that to others more gifted? The World's Largest Choir Project, the newest division of Film the Bible, is for YOU whether you can sing or not! Find out more by visiting our website. Register and receive the sheet music and lyrics for every song to be performed by the choir. All the exciting information about this new project is there for you at

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



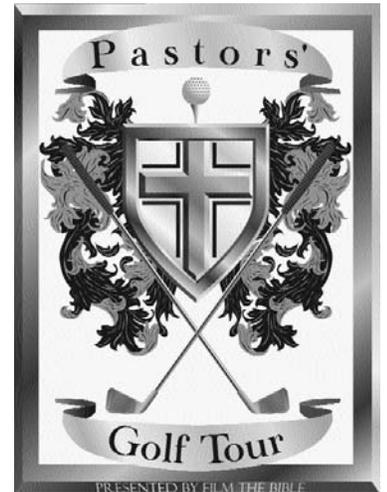
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