

# JESUS

*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. It was co-directed by Australian Peter Sykes and Englishman John Krisch and filmed in Israel. *Jesus* was produced by John Heyman, a German-born Jew. 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 was played by Yosef Shiloach.

Every four seconds, somewhere in the world, another person indicates a decision to follow Christ after viewing the "JESUS" film.

**Every four seconds...** that's 21,600 people per day, 648,000 per month and more than 7.8 million per year! That's like the population of the entire city of Seattle, WA, coming to Christ every 27.5 days. And yet, if you are like most people, you may have never even heard of it.

Called by some "one of the best-kept secrets in Christian missions," a number of mission experts have acclaimed the film as one of the greatest evangelistic tools of all time. Since 1979 the "JESUS" film has been viewed by several **billion** people all across the globe, and has resulted in more than **225 million** men, women and children indicating decisions to follow Jesus.

The "JESUS" film has now been translated into more than 1,050 languages, with a new language being added nearly every week.

The film "JESUS" is a two-hour docudrama about the life of Christ based on the Gospel of Luke. The film has been seen in every country of the world since its initial release. The film is based on The Gospel of Luke, Good News Bible translation (GNB) written in a simple, everyday language. Instead of creating a parallel story for the film or embellishing the biblical account, as is the case with other religious films (*The Ten Commandments* or *The Greatest Story Ever Told*) the filmmakers chose to adhere as closely as possible to the Gospel of Luke. Most of the film's dialogue comes from Luke.

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 that was entertaining, biblically accurate. Bright founded 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 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.

\* 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.