

# Movie About Potato-Like Faith to Hit U.S. Market

*Faith Like Potatoes*, an internationally acclaimed film about evangelist Angus Buchan, will open in U.S. theaters this spring.



[ ] A dramatic, little-known film about the life of Angus Buchan, a Christian farmer whose evangelistic crusades have drawn thousands to stadiums across South Africa, is coming to U.S. theaters this spring.

Christian retailers attending The Gathering 2009, a training and buying event held in the Orlando, Fla., last week, got a sneak peek of *Faith Like Potatoes*. The South African movie releases in U.S. theaters on April 7 and is being distributed by Sony Pictures.

*Faith Like Potatoes* tells the true story of Angus Buchan, an obstinate, hardworking Scotsman who leaves his Zambian farm in 1977 in hopes of offering his family better living conditions in eastern South Africa. He settles on a patch of land near Greytown, in what is now the province of KwaZulu Natal.

The film follows the Buchan family as they begin interacting with local Zulu, the largest ethnic group in South Africa. The Zulu are undeterred by Buchan's wild temper and help him build a home, clear the land and raise a farm. The Zulu's kindness toward him, coupled with personal setbacks, eventually cause Buchan to face his self-reliance and let God in.

"We really like this project because of its international storyline and universal message of God's love and saving grace," said Rich Peluso, an acquisitions agent at Sony Pictures Home Entertainment. "So many faith-based films are solidly American in their setting, story and style ... *Faith Like Potatoes* shows God moving in a far-away land."



# Threatens California's Proposition 8

*Advocates of California's Proposition 8 say the state attorney general's attempt to overturn the gay marriage ban opposes the will of the people.*



[ ] A San Diego pastor who successfully galvanized statewide support last fall to ban gay marriage in California says recent legal maneuvers by California Attorney General Jerry Brown aimed at overturning Proposition 8 are mostly motivated by political ambition.

"Everyone knows this is political," said Jim Garlow, senior pastor of Skyline Church in San Diego. "The real key here is [Brown] is posturing himself to gain an adequate base because he wants to run for governor again."

Following November elections Brown appeared unwilling to attack the judicial validity of the voter-passed Proposition 8. Garlow said Brown had an "epiphany" last month. "To win [the governorship], he will have to look further left than his [pro-gay marriage] opponent from San Francisco," he said.

Garlow said he and the members of "Protect Marriage – Yes on 8," a broad coalition that mobilized votes in favor of Proposition 8 last fall, are very concerned about the fate of Proposition 8. He said traditional marriage supporters

have  
been “losing the PR war” ever since Brown filed a brief with  
the  
Supreme Court last month claiming the same-sex marriage ban  
was  
unconstitutional because it violated the “inalienable or  
natural  
rights” of the population.

“We’re supposedly extinguishing the ‘fundamental rights’  
of [gay people],” Garlow said. “That would mean that for  
virtually every culture and every society over the past 5,000  
years,  
we have been denying the fundamental right [to gay marriage].  
It  
means [Brown] somehow has a grasp on the definition of what  
fundamental human rights are.”

Proposition 8 passed in November with 52 percent of vote,  
overriding a state Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-  
sex  
marriage in May. Garlow credited fasting and prayer for the  
traditional values victory on Nov. 4, while anti-Christian  
violence raged nationwide in the  
aftermath of the elections.

Garlow said activists on both sides of the gay marriage debate  
are  
passionate because they know what’s at stake. “When you  
redefine  
marriage for a few you have redefined it for all,” he said.  
“If  
the government has a compelling interest in somehow defending  
same-sex marriage, they would, by definition, have to silence  
or fine  
or sentence or incarcerate people who do not accept it in  
their  
personal lives, in the teaching of their children, in their

businesses, in their churches. ... People with biblical values left in them will not only become marginalized but they would become functionally illegal [for opposing gay marriage].”

On Monday, Protect Marriage lawyers filed a brief claiming Brown was inviting the California Supreme Court to declare “a constitutional revolution.”

“The [attorney general's] argument is not only unprecedented but contradicts the most basic understanding of the role of the judiciary in a constitutional democracy,” the attorneys said in a legal brief co-written by Whitewater prosecutor and Pepperdine Law School Dean Kenneth W. Starr. “His extra-constitutional vision is one of unprecedented judicial hegemony, a sweeping power vested in the least-democratic branch that overrides the precious right of the people to determine how they will be governed.”

A hearing could be held as early as March. Starr, former U.S. Solicitor General and a former judge on the D.C. Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, will argue the case on behalf of Protect Marriage. —**Paul Steven Ghiringhelli**

Discuss this article

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# Living Your Faith in a Secular Culture

by Julie R. Wilson

God will always relate to you on the basis of your choice. He has utmost respect for the free will He has given us. Sometimes His commitment can seem both a blessing and a curse.

We will have in our lives what we have chosen. We will *be* in our lives *whom* we have chosen. If our lives are chaotic or inconsistent, they only reveal the double-mindedness we have chosen in our hearts.

## Read the following Scriptures:

- Romans 1:18-32
- James 4:1-5
- Matthew 6:24; 10:37-38
- Mark 8:34-38

The Scripture says God's invisible qualities are *evident* and that men are without excuse. So our problem of living in obedience to God is not a problem of uncertainty, regarding who He is or even what He wants. No, our problem generally has more to do with our not liking the paths He chooses or submitting to His absolute lordship.

## Read Hebrews 3:12-19 and Psalm 78:9-42.

**Challenge:** According to these two passages, why did the Israelites *really* fail to enter God's rest? Find the answer

and you  
will have discovered a great secret.

If we want to know why we struggle to live wholeheartedly for God, we must ask Him to probe the root issues and divided loves of our hearts. Always the matter will boil down to what we love. Always we will follow—and serve—what we *love most*.

So what do you do if you realize that your choice for God is not clear and that you are battling with warring desires? The answer is very simple: Cry out to God. Be honest in your heart with God and tell Him the truth. If you are unsure what the truth is, ask Him to show you. And then repent for not loving Him.

When asked what the first and greatest commandment was, Jesus replied, ““You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind”” (Matt. 22:37, NLT). All our psychological and physical needs are met in the first commandment. And at the bottom of every sin is a breach of this same commandment. All sin begins in the failure to love God more than self.

We were made to love God. Loving God wholeheartedly is the deliverance from all addiction and the one need that will straighten out your entire life. Loving God will solve all your problems with obedience. Jesus said, ““If you love me, obey my commandments”” (John 14:15). So what is your struggle? What do you love? Whom do you choose? Take time

to ponder these questions.

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# Is Something Missing in Your Life?

*by Joyce Meyer*

Many Christians follow all the “right” rules and carefully live “the Christian life,” but inside they are wondering: Is this it? Is this all there is? I experienced that same emptiness in 1976 when as a young Christian I realized that doing the right things brought temporary happiness but not deep, satisfying joy.

In those early days of my walk with God, I could only see Him from a distance. Even though I was doing what I thought He required of me, I still felt that I needed change in my life. I was searching, but I didn't know what I was searching for.

One Friday morning in February, I was driving to work and feeling particularly discouraged. My husband and I had argued before we left home, something that happened quite often. I felt I couldn't go on any longer with the way things were. Out of sheer desperation I called out to God. I remember crying

out: "God, something is missing. I don't know what it is, but something is missing."

To my surprise, I heard the audible voice of God that morning in my car. He called my name and spoke to me about patience. From that moment, I knew with certainty that God was going to do something about my situation. I didn't know what He would do or when, but I knew that He was about to move in my life. Only a few hours later Jesus filled me with the presence of the Holy Spirit in a way that I had never before experienced.

More than likely, you can reflect on an encounter with God that was more satisfying than any other event in your life. But if that moment was years ago, or even yesterday, then you are missing out on the rich pleasure that comes from daily fellowship with the Father through His Holy Spirit. The Lord says, "I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me early and diligently shall find Me" (Prov. 8:17, The Amplified Bible).

There are too many unhappy born-again and so-called Spirit-filled believers who are without knowledge of what to do about their dry, unfulfilled lives. I say "so-called" because to be filled is to remain full of the Spirit of God by acknowledging Him and pursuing His ways daily.

It is possible to fill a glass with water without filling it

to full capacity. Likewise, when we are born again we have the Holy Spirit in us, but we may not yet be totally filled with the Spirit. In Acts 1:8 Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will also come upon us, giving us power (ability, efficiency and might) to be Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth. Acts 4:31 reports that when people were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke the Word of God "with freedom and boldness and courage."

Before I was immersed in the Holy Spirit, I was very busy doing things for God, yet I did not have enough power in my everyday life to be what God wanted. I desired to be like Jesus, but I had no power to successfully handle the ordinary events of my life. Although I was born again, I needed something more.

It does not please God when people leave Him out of their daily lives and then work religious formulas to try to appease Him. I regret all the years I wasted being religious, just going through the motions, following formulas, and not having the revelation that Jesus was alive in me through the power of the Holy Spirit.

I urge you to begin taking full advantage of your blood-bought relationship with God, through Jesus. Don't tuck God away for emergencies and Sunday mornings. Allow Him to work freely in every area of your life through the power

of the Holy Spirit.

Above all, don't be afraid of new things—just make sure they are biblical. I believe that God desires to take you to new heights in Him. He is knocking at the door of your heart. Will you open it wide and welcome Him? If you have not been providing a good home for the Holy Spirit, He has been missing you—and whether you know it or not, you have been missing Him.

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Joyce Meyer is an internationally recognized minister and author of 54 books, including the best sellers *Beauty for Ashes* and *Battlefield of the Mind* (Warner Faith), and her most recent, *Knowing God Intimately: Being as Close to Him as You Want to Be* (Warner Faith, 2003). She is the founder of Life In The Word Inc. and the host of Life In The Word radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide.

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## **Pastor Starts 'Strip Church' in Las Vegas**

*Craig Gross, founder of , plans to start a church on the infamous strip early this year.*



[ ] In 2002, Craig Gross and his wife, Jeanette, rented a booth

at the country's largest porn convention in Las Vegas in an effort to launch and offer light in a dark place. Since then, the Grosses' ministry has expanded to porn shows throughout the country, hundreds of speaking engagements at churches, books, documentaries and an assortment of other projects that reach people around the world, reports ABC News.

Yet as 2009 begins, is returning to where it all began: Sin City. "It makes perfect sense for who we're trying to reach, the temptations that this city has to offer, and the call that we feel that God's put in our lives to do this," Craig Gross said to ABC of his plans to start a church on the infamous strip early this year. "Las Vegas is known as sin city and that's where we need to be."

Gross and his family, along with a handful of other staff members from Fireproof Ministries, have already relocated to Las Vegas to establish a church in the epicenter of North American sex trafficking and prostitution.

"I think the church does a poor job overall when it comes to evangelism," Gross said according to ABC. "We get content with our members and then we spend time satisfying just our members and we lose that focus of Jesus [who] said, 'I came for the sick, not the healthy.'" To that degree, Gross and his staff plan to set up a booth at every possible trade show—from auto industry to plumbing—in Las Vegas with the intent of veering attendees away from the city's notorious temptations and instead toward a place of refuge located only steps away: The Strip Church.

"I know the world is watching," Gross told ABC of those wondering what keeps him from becoming another "moral maverick" who falls prey to the very temptation he rails against. "I know that people at these shows—people at churches—are waiting for me to fall, waiting for our team now, even [after] moving here. If I go down, what did I do for the last seven years? Why build something and then watch that come crashing down because it will. I didn't move here to be closer to prostitutes and strip clubs—I can't go there. ... We didn't move here to be Las Vegas, but we came here to change Las Vegas. If that's one family at a time, it's worth it."

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# Where Have All the Leaders Gone?

*The church today faces a serious leadership crisis. The only way to solve it is to embrace three forgotten virtues.*

The people of Israel faced a leadership crisis during their sojourn in the wilderness. From morning until evening, dozens of people would line up outside Moses' tent to ask him to resolve a dispute. When his father-in-law, Jethro, saw the crowds outside his door, he pulled Moses aside and gave him wise advice that ended up being recorded in Scripture.

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## Charisma News –



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## Dallas Women Assist 'Lost Girls' of Sudan

*Two Christian women are advocating for Sudanese refugees who sought asylum in the United States.*



[] Priscilla Kuer and Elisabeth Akuen survived unspeakable horrors in their homeland of Sudan. A 20-year civil war in the nation's south followed by genocide in western Darfur left the women destitute. Today they are beginning a new life in the United States with help from two Christian women in Dallas who have unwittingly become advocates for the so-called Lost Girls of Sudan.

“Their innocence leaves them open to exploitation,” said Beverly Parkhurst Moss, who with counselor Anne Worth, Ed.D., have helped the Sudanese women learn English, find jobs and gain citizenship. “They need so much.”

Moss and Worth learned about the Lost Girls through the LoveOne refugee befriending outreach of Fellowship Bible Church in Dallas. “Our LoveOne program trained members of our congregation to befriend and come alongside refugees on a one-on-one basis,” Worth said. “Both Beverly Parkhurst Moss and myself ... fell in love with the Lost Girls.”

Inspired by the women's stories, Moss wrote *The Dark Exodus*, which recounts the experiences of 16 Lost Girls in their own words. Half of the book's proceeds are used to support the Dark Exodus Foundation, through which Moss and Worth assist the women. So far, the foundation has put three of the women through culinary school, enrolled three others in a local college, and helped

finance nursing training for two others. "This has become a life mission," Worth said.

Although the resettlement of roughly 4,000 Lost Boys in the United States is more widely known, nearly 100 Sudanese women also found asylum in the early part of this decade. Moss said fewer women left Sudan because many did not survive the rapes and beatings that occurred both in their villages and the refugee camps. Girls also were often "fostered" into families and given in marriage to older men who paid a sufficient bride price.

Kuer left Sudan five years ago and still has relatives living in refugee camps. She was a teenager when she awoke one night to the sounds of bombs pummeling her mostly Christian village. With the surviving adults, she and the other children walked by night to a refugee camp in Kenya, living off fruits and forced to drink their own urine when they couldn't find water.

Along the two-week journey, Kuer watched gunmen murder her father and brothers as they attempted to cross the river to safety. "To this day, no matter how I try, I cannot remember how I got across that river," she told Moss.

At the refugee camp she met Joseph Deng, a man from her village who would become her husband. He immigrated first to the United States, landing a job in Dallas. She followed in 2003. Today the couple has two

children.

Akuen, a mother of three, immigrated to the U.S. in 2006. Her husband is also a Sudanese refugee. She was just 10 years old when she woke up to the sound of bombs hitting her village in southern Sudan finding her father's body on the floor of their house, she hid in the bush and eventually walked barefoot by night to Kenya.

"Because I couldn't see where I was going at night, I stepped on thorns," she told Moss. "My feet began to bleed and swell. They hurt so badly I was forced to walk on the back of my heels. ... I knew I couldn't stop walking. If I did I would die like so many people who had died along the way."

Moss and Worth say their friendship with the Sudanese women has changed their lives. "Knowing the women has strengthened my faith as I see them expecting to receive God's promise of love and provision under the most difficult circumstances," Worth said.

"I feel like I was the one lost, not them," Moss said. "And since I've found them, everything else in my life has taken on a secondary status, except for my faith and a burning anger at what they've been through."

Kuer hopes to one day become a lawyer, and Akuen aspires to help the elderly.

The women say their journey to the U.S. has taught them how to dream. "We are

human beings,” Kuer said. “We were not brought to America to live in shame and fear. We have rights and we have dreams.” **-Marcia Davis-Seale in Dallas**

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## Pressing into the New

**Editor's Note:** *In the message below, prophetic intercessor Cindy Jacobs echoes Barbara Wentroble's word from last week about becoming a new wineskin (if you missed that word, [click here to read it](#)). God has good things in store, Jacobs tells us—and a strategy for us to become all He wants us to be. Co-founder with her husband, Mike, of Generals International ([generals.org](http://generals.org)), and host of God Knows, a weekly television program on which she teaches, prophesies and prays for the sick, Jacobs has a heart to encourage the body of Christ through this message as we begin the new year.*