

# Christian Hip-Hop Artist Lecrae Starring in 'Feel-Good Comedy'

Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae is starring in *Believe Me*, a feature film from Riot Studios that has begun shooting. In the movie, Alex Russell (*Chronicle*) plays a college-student-turned-con-artist who hopes to profit from naive churchgoers, *The Hollywood Reporter* says.

"Guess I'm gettin Hollywood," Lecrae wrote in a Facebook post this week.

Several of his fans posted to encourage him, including one who said, "Stay humble Lecrae and keep God first. Change Hollywood, don't let them change you."

No release date has been announced for *Believe Me*, described by *The Hollywood Reporter* as a "feel-good comedy." The film also stars Zachary Knighton (*Happy Endings*), Johanna Braddy (*Easy A*) and Max Adler (*Glee*).

The film is being directed and co-written by Will Bakke, who also helmed the documentary *Beware of Christians*, which followed four Christian college students as they traveled across Europe to interview people about the relevance of Christianity in today's world. Texas-based Riot was founded in 2010 by Bakke, Alex Carroll and Michael Allen.

Earlier this year, Lecrae won a Grammy for *Gravity* (Reach Records) in the Best Gospel Album category.

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# Dream Turns Hate-Filled Muslim Into Lover of Israel

Umar Mulinde was a Muslim who hated Israel until Jesus appeared to him in a dream. After that, he became a Christian and started a church in Uganda.

But his newfound faith cost him.

On Christmas Eve 2011, Mulinde, now a pastor, was attacked by two Muslims with buckets of acid. The acid ate away his skin, his eye and his ear.

“I felt fire from up to down to my toes and I was like, ‘Something’s cooking me,’” he recalls about the attack. “And they shouted, ‘Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar,’ three times. I realized I have fallen into the ambush of Muslim terrorists.”

Mulinde now wears a special pressure mask to aid the healing process.

“My conversion from Islam and my love and promotion of the love of Israel in my community taught the people on the other side to haunt me and to hunt me for a kill,” he says.

In a recent interview with CBN News, Mulinde gave the account of his conversion to Christianity, the details of the attack on him, the lessons he has learned, his forgiveness of those who attacked him, and his message to the West. Click play to watch his remarkable testimony.

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# 8-Year-Old Preacher: 'God's Got My Back'

In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Most likely, Jesus is very proud of 8-year-old Samuel Green of Jackson, Miss., who at his tender age is bringing the kingdom of heaven to the masses. An active member of Berean Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Jackson, Green has been preaching for more than two years and has been the subject of many newspaper articles and national news broadcast segments, bringing the glory of the Lord through the media.

NBC's *Today* hosts Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb interviewed Green about the confidence he displays in the pulpit.

"I really don't get nervous because I know God has my back," Green said.

Green delivered his first live sermon in Birmingham, Ala., at the age of 6 in May 2011. That's when his mother, Joann, first realized her son's gift.

"I was very surprised—my husband and I were very surprised just to hear Samuel preach without any notes or anything," she told Gifford and Kotb on *Today*.

Green's mentor, Beverly Coleman, has worked with Green since he was just over a year old.

"He was brought to me at 13 months. By 18 months, I knew he was gifted academically," Coleman said on *Today*.

Green has his own website, , and his own local television show, *The Simple Truth*, which airs from 11 to 11:30 a.m. on Jackson, Miss., Comcast channel 18.

Green also is a member of the New Heights Seventh-day Adventist church choir.

Green told Gifford and Kotb that he plans to continue to deliver sermons and wants to become a pediatrician.

“I want to grow up to be a preacher and a doctor that takes care of children,” he said.

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## **Revival Pastor Jeff Beacham Loses Battle With Esophageal Cancer**

Pastor Jeff Beacham, founder of Firepower Ministries International (FMI), has died after a long battle with esophageal cancer.

In the most recent update on FMI’s Facebook page, dated July 19, Beacham said he had just completed a round of radiation on his “upper and mid spine to reduce the pain and paralysis in [his] arms and back.”

“I am grateful to be relieved of most of the pain to the point where I can be comfortable sitting and sleeping,” he wrote. “This is a major relief and I thank God for the technology that has helped.”

Joshua Kennedy, an FMI governing board member, sent out an email alert on Thursday that said Beacham has gone to be with the Lord.

“Jeff will be forever missed and never forgotten,” wrote Kennedy, a reverend at Praise Tabernacle in Egg Harbor

Township, N.J. "He has touched all our lives, pushing us forward into our high calling, in which we are eternally grateful.

"Jeff ran the race to win the prize and is now enjoying the reward of his labor. Let us look at his example of perseverance and follow suit."

Beacham spearheaded an awakening campaign in the northeast region of the U.S. under the banner of Firepower Ministries International. Even throughout his battle with cancer, he continued his work in ministry.

"Twice I've been given a death sentence from doctors concerning my struggle," the Australian preacher told *Charisma* earlier this year. "But I'm still here, so somebody was wrong."

Arriving stateside 14 years ago, Beacham walked away from a flourishing ministry with Sydney Christian Life Centre, now part of Hillsong Church. Beacham, his wife and their five children landed with only a few suitcases, meager possessions and some furniture.

"God showed me a vision of a great wheel of reawakening rolling into the northeast of America," he said of this new work. "There were four giant spokes connecting the outer rim to the inner hub. On each of the spokes was a word beginning with the letter 'P.'"

Beacham believed one spoke was for prayer, meant to capture the attention of God; one for purpose, attained from hearing God's heart; another for power, which enables the outworking of God's purposes; and a fourth for passion, meant to move people from apathy to activity. Beacham said everything revolved around the inner hub, on which was the word *unity*, which counteracts the spirit of independence.

"Let us take Jeff's baton of carrying the vision of the 'wheel

of reawakening' forward," Kennedy said. "Yes, a mighty warrior has left this earth, yet the legacy of this great man will live on through those he inspired.

"Please keep Melva [his wife] and the rest of Jeff's family in prayer. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund is being established. Details to come."

*Peter K. Johnson contributed to this report.*

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## **After 'Inappropriate Relationship,' Megachurch Pastor Dino Rizzo Restored to Ministry**

Another fallen-then-restored pastor is making news this week.

Dino Rizzo, who took a sabbatical in July 2012 and then resigned from the senior pastorate of his church two months later, is now going back to work for the Association of Related Churches (ARC), working with church planters, church leaders and churches in transition that he co-founded.

Rizzo stepped away from the pulpit at Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge, La., last summer, saying he had not felt like himself spiritually, physically or emotionally for several months. At that time, he also said that his physically exhausted, spiritually depleted state had affected his decision-making, his family life and his ability to lead effectively.

Although it was unclear why Rizzo chose to resign at that

time, he did ask for forgiveness from those he disappointed as a pastor. He told the congregation that his wife and three kids were on the path to "healing and hope."

Greg Surratt, president of ARC, has revealed Rizzo was "involved in the early stages of a brief but inappropriate friendship with another woman."

Surratt went on to say that Healing Place overseers, including Chris Hodges, Rob Ketterling, John Seibling and Stovall Weems, assumed responsibility to guide the church and the Rizzos to healing and restoration. A comprehensive plan was put in place that included rest, counseling for Dino and his wife, Delynn, and a "list of other actions" overseers felt would eventually qualify Rizzo to minister again.

"They also felt it was important for him to step down from public ministry for one year, followed by a year of supervised ministry before he would be considered fully restored," Surratt says. "The list of personal benchmarks that Dino was asked to fulfill was 31 items long, and over the past year, he and Delynn have accomplished each one of them."

After much prayer, Surratt continues, the Rizzos felt it was in the best interest of Healing Place Church to move on and let someone else lead the church they planted more than 20 years ago. In May 2013, the overseers, along with the church trustees and elders, installed Mike Haman as the new senior pastor. Haman was already serving in a senior role and has been a spiritual son to Rizzo for many years.

Surratt says the Rizzos will be moving to Birmingham, Ala., for the next year of supervised ministry. Dino Rizzo will be serving on staff at Church of the Highlands for one year and also serving part-time for the ARC, assisting the team in providing pastoral care for the hundreds of church planters that have planted through the ARC.

"In July, the ARC board of directors met for our annual board

meeting and—based on the recommendation of the overseers—formally installed Dino back into this season of ministry,” Surratt says. “We laid hands on him and released him to fulfill the call of God on his life again. We are looking forward to the value he will bring to ARC, providing care and relationship to fellow pastors as we move forward together in our goal of seeing life-giving churches planted and nourished in every community.”

Sam Hinn, the brother of Benny Hinn, is also being re-ordained this week.

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## **Why Peacemaking Can Be Painful**

I was in Washington, D.C., last week when reports on the arrival of a group of other Israelis in the U.S. capitol made front-page news. While I was warmly received by a wide array of people, including journalists at CBN and leaders from the National Religious broadcasters, my trip was not the focus of the media’s attention.

Rather, it was a team of high-level negotiators from Israel to sit face to face with a parallel group of Palestinians, the first time in years that Israel and the Palestinians actually sat down together face to face formally to try to overcome the differences and even broach the idea of making peace.

Despite my trip not being in the news, my presence was a catalyst for seeking my thoughts, comments and observations about the news among those with a heart for Israel.

I share the prayer and hope of most Israelis that one day we

will actually have peace with our neighbors, and I know for a certainty that most Israelis will be ready to make painful concessions if the possibility of peace were actually in reach. Yet I, like many Israelis, don't see too much reason for hope in the short term.

One of the most challenging parts of the negotiation, just to return to negotiations, is Israel's agreeing to release 104 hardcore terrorists, many imprisoned for decades for murdering and maiming other Israelis. Doing so has opened old wounds and renewed the pain and grief of the families of the many victims of these terrorists who will now go free, and who will receive a hero's welcome when they go home, celebrating their murderous acts of Palestinian nationalism.

It's perverse that Israel is releasing these terrorists in order to coax the Palestinians back to talk with us about making peace. As painful as this is, one could make the case for doing so in the implementation of a final peace agreement.

However simply to release terrorists to get the Palestinians to agree to talk about peace makes a mockery of Israel's deep sense of justice. The arrest, trial and imprisonment of these terrorists for serious crimes was all done under Israeli law, yet now they are being set free. One would think that if the Palestinians really want peace and to live side by side with Israel, they would do everything and anything possible to resolve differences, rather than wait years to negotiate terms just to talk about making peace.

Releasing hardened terrorists also sends chills up the spine of any parent of a young man or woman currently serving in the IDF, or who will serve, as it weakens operations to track down and arrest other terrorists, whether after the fact, or based on intelligence that they are about to act. These operations are done at considerable risk to the elite forces who carry them out as well as those, often Arabs, who provide the necessary intelligence.

Not only does the threat of arrest, or serving a full sentence once arrested, not serve to discourage people from joining the terrorists, it may outright encourage further acts of terrorism as the perpetrators may rightly look at Israel with little fear or consequence of their actions, or actually assess that the "penalty" is well worth the crime, if caught.

Certainly, it's possible that any of these could consider serving 10-20 years in a comfortable Israeli prison with cable, three halal meals, air conditioning, and the ability to study toward an advanced degree as being well worth it, even an incentive to go ahead and kill a few Israelis.

Of course, just by being an Israeli in D.C. does not give me any unique insight into what was and has been taking place behind the scenes to get to this place. It's a very uneasy situation and one about which I don't know too many people who are happy. Speculation is rife with ideas that Israel had to bend to the U.S. in order to demonstrate that it was really trying so that when the time comes to act on Iran, the U.S. will do the right thing.

Everyone understands that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas is a weak leader who governs with little legitimacy (his term as president ended years ago but there have not been any elections since, so he sits in his office with no constitutional legitimacy), and one who probably looks over his shoulder all the time as his Hamas brothers threaten to do to him what is happening in Syria and Egypt. By tossing Abbas this bone, the theory goes he could have the standing to be so bold as to actually negotiate peace with Israel, which many Palestinians oppose and many Israelis don't see him able to uphold.

There is a hope that in the context of Israel releasing these Arab prisoners, as part of this deal President Obama will do the right thing and pardon Jonathan Pollard, an Israeli American serving a sentence so far in excess of what others

convicted of serious crimes, it's hard not to imagine anti-Semitism playing a role. While Palestinian terrorists' release is legitimately a mockery of justice, so too is Pollard's continued imprisonment. Pollard's release could certainly give Prime Minister Netanyahu something to show in response to the mounting protests against the terrorists' release.

Whatever may come, I pray that the God of Israel, whose covenant with Abraham grants Israel more legitimacy than most if not all modern nation states today, will grant wisdom to do the right thing.

*Jonathan Feldstein is the director of Heart to Heart, a unique virtual blood donation program to bless Israel and save lives in Israel. Born and educated in the U.S., Feldstein emigrated to Israel in 2004. He is married and the father of six. Throughout his life and career, he has been blessed by the calling to fellowship with Christian supporters of Israel and shares experiences of living as an Orthodox Jew in Israel.*

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## **Sam Hinn Getting Re-Ordained 8 Months After Sexual Misconduct**

Less than eight months after Sam Hinn stepped down from the pulpit of his Orlando-area church amid a sexual scandal, the younger brother of evangelist Benny Hinn is being publicly re-ordained on Sunday.

Bishop Mark Chironna, founder and senior pastor of Church on the Living Edge in Longwood, Fla., sent out a phone message to the church's members this week announcing that Hinn would be

“re-ordained” by Chironna, Archbishop Lonnie Langston and six other bishops. The message indicated that Langston, founder of Tabernacle Bible College and Seminary, would be installing Hinn as a professor at the Tampa, Fla., school.

Neither Chironna nor Langston returned Charisma News’ calls seeking comment on the re-ordination, but the message from Chironna’s ministry said:

“This Sunday evening at 7:30, Bishop Lonnie Langston and a presbytery of 6 other pastors and bishops, including myself, are gonna be re-ordaining Pastor Sam Hinn at Church on the Living Edge. And I want to encourage as many of you that love Pastor Sam to come out and be a part of that.

“I’ve been part of the presbytery team in Pastor Sam’s journey in the last number of months with everything that’s gone on—and the bishops and pastors are all in hearty agreement that it’s time to re-ordain Pastor Sam as he’s gonna be working with the Tabernacle Bible College and Seminary as a professor. And we want to affirm that he’s doing well and he certainly is, and that his family is doing well and they certainly are.

“And so Sunday night is gonna be a very special night—if you have any relationship at all with Pastor Sam, I know that he’d be blessed if you would be a part of that. So, I wanna let everyone know that’s a special—special night; and we would love for you to join us and be part of that on Sunday evening at 7:30.”

Earlier this year, Hinn admitted to allowing himself “to be drawn into a relationship that has caused much hurt and pain to my wife and family. I have repented and asked for and received their forgiveness. Scripture states that I must bring forth the fruit of repentance if I expect to be restored.”

Hinn served as pastor of the Gathering Place Worship Center in Sanford, Fla., which holds two morning services attended by

about 300 people each, plus a small Arabic service on Sunday afternoon. When Hinn admitted to an immoral relationship that lasted more than four years, the church board said, "Pastor Sam Hinn has been relieved of all ministry responsibilities and as the official board, we have outlined a restoration process. This process includes pastoral and professional counseling, as well as a mandatory time out of ministry so that all fractures in both his personal and family life may be healed."

Ron Johnson, pastor of One Church (Assembly of God) in nearby Longwood, was asked by the Gathering Place's church board to oversee the restoration process and did so for the first three months. After a disagreement over restoration stipulations, however, Johnson became estranged from the process. He told Charisma News he does not agree with timing of the re-ordination and will be making a public statement through this platform in the coming days.

Ex-megachurch pastor Dino Rizzo has also been restored after an "inappropriate relationship" with a woman. [Click here to read more.](#)

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## **Rick Warren: Battling Internet Scammers 'Making Money on My Son's Death'**

It isn't enough that after four months, Rick Warren understandably struggles with grief daily over the suicide death of his 27-year-old son, Matthew. But recently, the senior pastor at **Saddleback Church** has also been forced to battle the scammers who have attempted to profit from

Matthew's death on the Internet.

Warren said on his Facebook page this week that more than 200 phony social media pages have been created to solicit funds to memorialize his son—179 of which have been “shut down.”

“We're still working on the rest,” Warren wrote. “Thanks to you friends for reporting them and thanks for ‘LIKING’ this real page. I appreciate you so much for your help. God bless you.”

**Matthew Warren** committed suicide in April after a lifelong battle with mental illness.

Rick Warren is only one of many prominent pastors who have been targeted by scammers with fake social media pages to solicit funds in their name. Joel Osteen of Lakewood Church in Houston, John Hagee of Cornerstone Church in San Antonio and Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research are among those who have been targeted.

Stetzer told CNN that scammers play upon the emotions and sympathies of unwitting victims. But, he said, the content of the postings should make people leery before acting on the request.

“I think it's important that people realize that there are a lot of evil people in the world,” Stetzer said. “The posts really weren't like I would post, and secondarily, they began to contact people and those people said, ‘That really doesn't sound like you at all.’”

Facebook removes any fake pages when those pages are reported, the company's website says.

Warren has since returned to the pulpit. After a 16-week absence, he told members of his congregation that his daughter, Amy, told him, “Satan picked the wrong family to pick on.”

“I am in a family of spiritual redwoods. I mean, they are giants of faith,” he said.

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## **Wife of Scientology Head Reportedly Missing, Church Has Different Story**

The Los Angeles Police Department on Thursday closed their inquiry into the whereabouts of the wife of Scientology leader David Miscavige, a police spokesman said.

The location of Miscavige’s wife, Shelly, had come under police investigation after actress Leah Remini, who recently left the Church of Scientology, filed a missing person report, a source close to the actress told Reuters.

The LAPD would not say who filed the report or when it was filed.

“The investigation has been closed and we consider the report to be unfounded,” Los Angeles Police Detective Gus Villanueva said. He declined to elaborate on the details in the report and why it was closed.

Shelly Miscavige’s whereabouts have been a focus of church critics, who claim she has not appeared in public in six years.

By filing the report with police, Remini could have posed a challenge to the church, which relies heavily on its celebrity members for visibility. Tom Cruise and John Travolta are among the most well-known members and only a handful of celebrities have left.

Remini, 43, who is best known for her role in the CBS comedy *The King of Queens*, recently left the church after coming under special scrutiny after she asked about the whereabouts of Shelly Miscavige, the *New York Post* newspaper reported.

Remini had asked why Shelly Miscavige was not at the 2006 wedding of Cruise to actress Katie Holmes, the newspaper said. Remini's representatives have not confirmed that event.

The Church of Scientology, which has said in the past that Shelly Miscavige is not missing and has been working "non-stop" in the church, pushed back against such reports.

"This is just harassment," the church said in a statement. "It is a publicity stunt cooked up by a small band of unemployed fanatics who live on the fringe of the Internet."

The religion, which was founded in 1954 by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, believes man is an immortal being whose experience extends beyond one lifetime.

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*Reporting by Eric Kelsey; Editing by Mary Milliken and Stacey Joyce*

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