

New Movie's Dystopian America: Bibles Banned, Believers Hiding

Picture a dystopian America where Bibles are banned, Christianity is vanquished and believers are forced to embark on a perilous journey to worship Jesus in underground churches.

That's the world characters face in "Disciples in the Moonlight," a feature film releasing this summer.

According to an official description, the movie focuses on "a reluctant leader [who] heads up a team of seven Christians intent on smuggling Bibles to underground churches." The action-packed trailer shows a world devoid of truth, where characters risk it all to exercise and live out basic beliefs.

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Director Brett Varvel, who also stars in the movie, told CBN News "Disciples in the Moonlight" has long been a dream and passion project.

"From the beginning, I wanted to lift high the Word of God as absolute authority, and something that we should hold highly as absolute truth," he said. "But, then also, the name of Jesus Christ, which is the only name under heaven given to mankind whereby we might be saved."

Varvel said he found himself wondering how he would respond if placed in the same position as the characters in the film—a real-life predicament many Christians around the world face in persecution-saturated nations like China, North Korea and Nigeria.

"[I] saw this video on YouTube of these Christians in China receiving a shipment of Bibles, and they were pulling open the boxes and ripping the Bibles out of the box," he said. "Kissing the Bibles, hugging the Bibles, crying over the Bibles."

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Varvel continued, "And that was something that just really stuck out to me from the beginning of this exploration of this idea—'Do I treasure the Word of God as absolute hope, absolute authority, absolute truth?'"

Reflecting on the intense persecution so many face globally, he said it's inspiring to see so many cling to the Gospel even amid such "heavy persecution," juxtaposing their devotion to the more spiritually lethargic responses often observed in U.S. circles.

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