

PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

Episode 1 of Jesus Christ Series Set for Release at Belton Convention

The all-volunteer production is among three major Christ-centered programs this season

BELTON, Texas – July 8, 2024 – In New South Wales, Australia, there exist replicas of regions once visited by the most notable prophet who ever lived.

Jerusalem, Cana of Galilee, Capernaum, and Nazareth rise in a backlot where an all-volunteer cast and crew is producing an epic video series portraying Jesus' life and teachings.

The Good News According to Jesus is an 18-episode comprehensive look at the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, his personality, and his interactions with people. Episode 1 will be released as a special feature of the 2024 "Declare the Good News!" conventions of Jehovah's Witnesses. Subsequent episodes will be released at future conventions.

A Christian denomination, Jehovah's Witnesses have a presence in some 240 lands and are one of the largest nonprofit volunteer Bible educators and producers of Scripturally based content, including feature-length video dramas.

"This series has been years in the making and we are now thrilled to release this to the public," said Sean Butler, local spokesperson for Jehovah's Witnesses. "We truly feel that this series, which holds true to the Bible's accounts of Jesus' life, will deeply move and motivate all who watch it."

Cameras began rolling in May 2022 at the national headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses in Australia. More than 500 volunteers constructed over 75,000 square feet of historically accurate sets. Adding to the realism, the sets have also featured animals mentioned in the Bible such as donkeys, sheep, pigeons, and camels. Some scenes were even shot on location in the Judean wilderness in Israel.

The "Declare the Good News!" conventions will feature *Episode 1—The True Light of the World* in two parts on Friday and Saturday of the three-day program. The <u>preview</u> for Episode 1 is now available on jw.org, the official website of Jehovah's Witnesses.

The release happened just weeks after the Witnesses commemorated their most important day of the year—the Memorial of the death of Jesus Christ, held on Sunday, March 24, 2024. The Witnesses, some 8.8 million worldwide, reported that last year over 20.4 million people attended the Memorial in response to Jesus' command at Luke 22:19: "Keep doing this in remembrance of me."

Public Information Jehovah's Witnesses United States of America

Additionally, the Witnesses invited community members to their local Kingdom Halls the weekend of March 16 and 17, 2024, for a 30-minute Bible-based discourse titled "The Resurrection—Victory Over Death!" The talk discussed the Scriptural hope of a resurrection and its connection to Jesus.

"Whether we have been taught about Jesus from our youth or have heard about him through other means, The Good News According to Jesus will capture the attention of its viewers. We warmly encourage all to attend the convention for this thrilling release," said Butler.

All of Jehovah's Witnesses' meetings, conventions, Bible study aids, and videos are free of charge and available to the public. No collections are ever taken. To find a meeting or convention near you, visit the Witnesses' official website, <u>jw.org</u>, and look for the appropriate link under the "About Us" tab. To watch the <u>preview</u> for *Episode 1—The True Light of the World*, visit <u>jw.org</u> > About Us > <u>Conventions</u>.