Hollywood



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IMPACT MAGAZINE

The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who watces his way preserves his life. Prov. 16:17

Tinseltown Ministries

t the studies last week we came to what I believe to be the pivotal passage of the book of Esther and, perhaps, a pivotal passage for the entire bible. With the king's approval, a decree has gone out to the entire Persian empire, stating that on a certain date every Jew in the empire was to be killed. At that point in history Mordecai was a leader among the Jewish population in Persia, and the Persian king had recently taken Mordecai's cousin Esther as his queen. When Mordecai learned of the decree, he fell into deep mourning for himself and his people.

Mordecai's cousin Queen Esther heard of his mourning, but apparently didn't know about the decree, so she sent her servant to him to find out what was wrong. He first told her about the decree through her servant, and then told her she needed to go into the king and intercede on behalf of the Jews. Esther responded by reminding Mordecai that anyone who goes into the king without being summoned might be killed on the spot.

TINSELTOWN MINISTRIES

"Make Your Life Count For Something"

Spencer Tracy Boystown



We find Mordecai's response to that in Esther chapter 4 verses 13-14: 4:13 And Mordecai told them to answer Esther "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 4:14 For if you remain completely silent at this time relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (NKJV)

Mordecai warns her that if she refuses to go into the king, relying on her relationship to him might not save her.

For one thing, he is a pagan steeped in the occult, whose closest advisors are mystics that rely on Astrology for their guidance. Then Mordecai makes two profound statements. The first is found in the first half of verse 14. Take a moment to look at what he says there. What does Mordecai mean when he suggests that the Jews will be delivered whether or not you step up, but if you do not step up, you and yours will perish? Is there an application there that you and I need to see?

Mordecai's second profound statement is found in the second half of verse 14, where he says, "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" I have said to those who attend the studies, "If you are not called by God to be involved in the business of Hollywood, you should probably go home." Why? Because Hollywood is one of the toughest battlefields in the whole of the Spiritual War.



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Satan is able to influence the moral climate of most of the civilized world through much of the media that originates in this country,

and particularly that which originates here in Hollywood.

It follows then, when Christians come here, Satan centers his attacks on them. That's a battle for which only God can prepare us as believers.

On the other hand, if you are called to be here, don't you dare go home! I don't care how difficult the battle gets for you, stand! (Ephesians 6:10-18) Those whom God has equipped to withstand the attacks of the enemy here are desperately needed here. Think about how Mordecai's Holy Spirit-inspired words might apply to you in this place and "in this time ..." Who knows but what might have a divine appointment set up for you, "for such a time as this", when God might use you to affect the battle to reach Hollywood with the gospel ?!?

In closing, let's look at Esther's response, found in Esther 4:16: "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day.

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My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!" (NKJV). That's a truly heroic response from a truly heroic woman. What's yours?

Gary Swanson, pastor

"The Bible is Alive, It speaks to me; It has feet, It runs after me; It has hands, It lays hold of me."

Martin Luther



BEHIND THE SCENES

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G ary Skeen Hall is no novice to the entertainment industry. Though, you won't see him on the "Big Screen," you might see his name in the credits of such popular television series as , "24," PRISON BREAK, THE SIMP-SONS, MY NAME IS EARL, SHARK, BONES and THE UNIT.

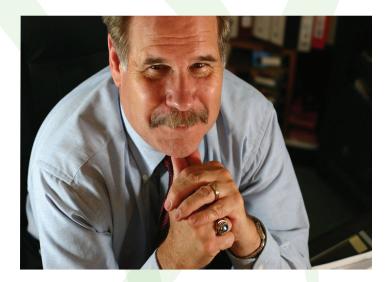
He has been a writer and producer in television for over twenty years, and for the past ten years, he has had the privilege of serving as Sr. Vice President of Post Production for 20th Century Fox Television Studios.

The son of a U.S. Navel officer, Mr. Hall found his passion at the age of 14 when he enrolled in a television production class at Fremont High School in Sunnyvale, California. After High school he attended UCLA where he graduated with a bachelors degree in Motion Picture/Television.

His career in the industry began at 20th Century Fox television as an assistant director trainee. From there he landed Associate producer positions at Stephen J. Cannell Productions and then Warner Bros.

As a writer and producer, Mr. Hall's credits include 21 JUMP STREET, The A-TEAM, PENSICOLA: WINGS OF GOLD, to name a few. He also wrote and produced the HBO feature, STRINGER.

In addition to working in the entertainment industry, Mr. Hall has worked as a part time police officer for the Los Angeles Police Department for over 25 years, "I feel so blessed that God has given me a job that only five other people in the world have."



with multiple commendations for bravery and service. He has worked such assignments as gangs, narcotics, homicide and on special assignments including the infamous "Night Stalker" case.

Mr. Hall currently works patrol in the Los Angeles area. "I never quite understood why God gave me these two divergent, yet passionate directions for my life. I never dreamed I could do both. Police work, a side of life most of us rarely see has brought realism to my writing, and compassion to my life."

> Story by Cyndi Hall

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THE QUIET, Humble Artist

he's an amazing artist who works on the movie lot of 20th Century Fox Studios. Unlike many in Hollywood, she is a quiet, humble woman who simply performs her art from the shadows. She's not an actress, writer, or director. Nor does she work on a set. What does she do? She turns ordinary bushes and shrubs into incredible works of art.

I've tried to interview her in the past, and have even given her a questionnaire to fill out to make this interview easy. But she always has a reason why she can't talk about herself or her work. For her, it's nothing extraordinary. It's just her job. She's the "Topiary Lady"...

I know her name is Cathy, although I don't know if she spells it with a "C" or a "K"; a "Y" or an "IE". I know she's been at Fox for over 20 years. I also know she loves dogs and obviously loves plants.

She's far from a recluse though, every time anyone walks or drives by her on their golf cart, there's always a friendly

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

shout-out to Cathy, "Hey Cathy, those [topiaries] are looking great!" She smiles and replies, "Thanks, you have a good day at work."

I asked her once how she makes such beautiful topiaries, and like many sculptors, she said, "I just look at the plant and cuts away those leaves and branches to reveal what's inside." Her art is all around the lot and brings much joy to everyone who sees it.

There are several of her pieces outside my office, and I often see people stop and look and comment in amazement at these works of art. Often people pose for pictures with the penguins in front of my building.

I don't know much more about Cathythis quiet, humble artist... You can judge her art for yourself...



UPCOMING EVENTS

Interested in bringing Christ to the entertainment industry?

Informational meeting June 7th at Grace Baptist Church visit www.gracebaptist.org for detailed information.

Hollywood Prayer Warriors-

A group of dedicated individuals meets once a month on the 20th century Fox lot to walk and pray for Hollywood. To participate visit www.hollywoodimpactstudios.com.

Tinseltown Bible study-

Are you a christian working in Hollywood and desiring to deepen your relationship with Christ? Then this is the meeting for you. Meet other industry professionals who have a heart and desire to serve God in the heart of Hollywood. If you would like to attend, contact Gary Swanson at www.tinseltownministries.org.

Hollywood Impact Studios -

Begins a film school behind bars in the Los Angeles County jail June 3, 2009. For details contact www.hollywoodimpactstudios.com.

POETRY TO PONDER

WHO AM I

Heaven and eatth, expanse in the sky, Who am I, who am I, who am I; Formed from the dust, returned to the earth, Who am I, who am I...

Oh god, creator of man, I live by the grace of your hand; Not worthy of such a true love; My desires been on earth, not above...

How far have I strayed from Your feet, Fear of man I declare your defeat; My hope is in God up above; His glory, His wonderful love...

My Savior, redeemer and friend, I lay down my life 'til the end; On my knees at the foot of the cross; I consider it gain, not loss...

Who is man that god loves us so much, To give life, shed His own flesh and blood; The lamb in exchange for the lost; Redeemed by the way of the cross...

Heaven and earth, expanse in the sky, Who am I, who am I, who am I; Formed from the dust, returned to the earth, Who am I, who am I, who am I...

By Cyndi Hall

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