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FILMMAKERS EMBARK ON 168-HOUR RACE
TO DELIVER SHORTS ON 'FAMILY BUSINESS'-THEMED BIBLE VERSES

*With Pre-Production Over and Scripts Now in Hand,
80+ Teams From Around the World Turn Cameras On
To Mold Randomly Assigned Scriptures Into Quality Cinematic Entertainment*

LOS ANGELES (Feb. 26, 2009) -- God may have rested on the seventh day after a stunning six-day spurt of creativity. But not so the over 80 filmmaking teams from across the U.S. and as far away as the U.K. and the Philippines entered in this year's faith-based speed filmmaking contest, the 168 Film Project.

Beginning last Friday at 2:00 p.m. PT, the groups -- comprising an estimated 1,500 film professionals and amateurs alike, and even some celebrities like "Saturday Night Live" alumnus Victoria Jackson -- have seven days, or 168 hours, to shoot a short film of 11 minutes or less based on a luck-of-the-draw Bible verse plucked from scriptures that relate to "Family Business," this year's theme. And if the previous six editions of the annual 168 are any indication, producers, directors, editors and composers will likely use every last minute of their final 24 hours to perfect their creations.

"This is the week our filmmakers put their money where their mouth is," said 168 founder and director John David Ware. "They are now finding out how effective their planning has been as they work to make memorable films that will earn them nominations and a good screening at the 168 Film Festival (April 3-4)."

Finished films are due at the 168's Burbank offices no later than 2:00 p.m. PT on Fri. Feb. 27.

Employing a range of digital video recording devices from Panasonic's popular hi-def, P2-card-driven HVX200 (and even its landmark prosumer predecessor, the DVX100) to the 4K-capture RED One and Sony's new tapeless state-of-the-art PDW-700 XDCAM HD models, crews focused in on a variety of locations in and outside of California, including:

- **Culver City's swanky Japanese café Royal/T**, serving as the setting for husband and wife veteran 168 producers David and Jerusha Kiang's futuristic "The Call," an apocalyptic mark-of-the-beast-themed film based on Luke 18:29-30's outlining of the cost and rewards of saving faith, written and directed by the couple, lensed by Emmy-winning DP Jody Eldred (episode of ABC's "Nightline" on Iraq-based Marine company Fox 2/5) and starring 2005 168 Best Actor Robert Wu ("A Temp for All Seasons")
- **the Golden State's central coast Danish resort town of Solvang** doubling as Langfang in northern China in "Saving Levi," a true-life story of adoption, becoming of Luke 15:20-21's compassionate father, being produced by Michael Ramsey and executive produced by veteran 168 filmmaker David Bradshaw (2008's multi-nominated "Seed for You")
- **Park City, Utah, literally over the snow-capped Wasatch Mountains** in "Up in the Air," the tale of a retired naval pilot visited by his estranged wife, based on the call in Hosea 3:1 to commit to a wayward spouse and produced by Park City actor and pastor Doug Folsom and 2009 Doritos' Crash the Super Bowl ad finalist Chris Roberts, executive produced by 2008 168 Best Film "Stained" producer Jeff Bartsch, directed by two-time 168 Best Film-winning director Wes Llewellyn ("Cross Walk," "A Good Day") and starring Folsom and Melissa Disney, current singing voice of Snow White

(MORE)

- **York's thriving theatre community in northern England** for the Shakespearean-themed "Subtexts," based on Luke 3:21-22's account of Jesus' baptism and affirmation and produced by Luke Walton (2008 168 Best Film nominee "Home") and directed by Paul Burbridge; and
- **Manila suburb Taytay, the garment capital of the Philippines**, where an aspiring young guitarist's interest in ministry and music is initially disparaged by his worrywart mother in "Himig" (Melody), a lesson in character-building fellowship based on Matt. 12:46-49 and produced by Priscilla Mayshle and Douglas Flemming in cooperation with World Mission Communications.

With photography having wrapped mid-week for nearly all entrants, post-production is now in full swing as editors lock picture, composers score scenes, and sound and visual effects are added.

Festival organizers' suspicions that this year's Family Business theme might usher in more comedies than usual may be confirmed if producers McCall Jones, Susan Shearer and Amber Deegan's "The Last Laugh," starring "SNL" star Victoria Jackson, and actor-director-producer Mike Capozzi's "Love Never Tires" are any indication. McCall said he'd done a lot of dramas in his career and, going into the 168, was more interested in doing a comedy. "Then along came verse night," he noted with irony, recounting how he drew Genesis 22:2's ordering of Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac -- a passage Shearer called "perhaps the heaviest in all the Bible." Yet the trio and their director Eric Tozzi followed their instincts and, with a capable and musically comedic Ms. Jackson in the lead role of a comedy club owner faced with the crisis of her life, are looking forward to serving up fun with their entry (whose screenplay Jones and Jackson wrote) while serving the Lord.

Capozzi -- with a Genesis citation himself from Ch. 29, verses 19-20 about Jacob having to serve Laban seven years to earn his daughter Rachel's hand -- likewise sought to make light of the situation in his verse. In his team's "Love Never Tires" the hyphenate filmmaker wears many suits indeed -- including that of a chicken, as his character's car dealership boss tests the lengths to which his employee will go to attain a worthy goal.

A sampling of other entries hurtling toward Friday's deadline includes these takes on prejudice, immigration and punishment:

- the racially-focused 1950s period piece "Shades of Gray" inspired by Josh. 24:15 about white suburbanites' ostracizing of a black handyman from producers Marc Stone and Rochelle Warner, directed by Stone and starring last year's 168 Best Actress Jenn Gotzon ("Stained"), who plays Tricia Nixon in Ron Howard's Oscar-nominated "Frost/Nixon"
- adventures of an Indian émigré to the U.S. told in producers John Perkins and Sonia Mari's brush with Hollywood "Asha to Ashes," based on Ruth 2:11-12's account of being rewarded for her faith and starring Mari; and
- actress-turned-producer Alexandra Smothers' "Broken," an inward-looking study of multi-generational afflictions recorded in 2 Sam. 12:9-10, directed by Patrick G. Ingram (producer, 2008 Audience Award winner "Learning to Fly").

For more information, a complete list of filmmaking teams and their assigned Scripture verses, and/or to schedule an interview with 168 founder/executive director John David Ware, please contact Scotty Dugan at Dugan & Story PR at 435-901-1483, scotty@duganstory.com; 168 Film Project at 818-557-8507, info@168project.com or visit www.168project.com.

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