

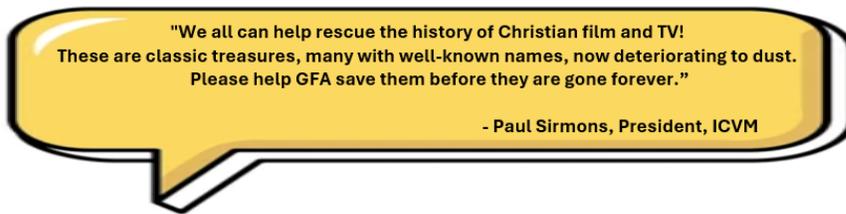


## **GOSPEL FILMS ARCHIVE SEEKS BACKING TO ESTABLISH A GOSPEL FILMS MUSEUM**

### **Preserving 100 Years of Christian Film Heritage**

A vast library documenting 20th-century religious and cultural history is at risk of being lost forever. The Gospel Films Archive (GFA) is dedicated to rescuing and reissuing thousands of Christian films produced throughout the last century. These films provide a unique perspective on how the Bible and Christianity were portrayed to audiences through film and television. Without intervention, this invaluable celluloid history could succumb to time and decay, erasing a significant part of our religious heritage.

Film preservationist Bob Campbell, co-founder of GFA, is leading the effort to save these irreplaceable resources. Campbell emphasizes the unparalleled cultural, historical, and spiritual value of the archive, noting, "Much of the content cannot be found anywhere else on the planet, and the cultural, historical and spiritual value is simply priceless." The core mission is to rescue and restore a century of inspired works while preservation remains possible. Despite proper storage, 16 mm color film prints inevitably deteriorate over time, losing their color and becoming difficult to digitize. Timely intervention allows for restoration using modern technology but waiting too long results in irreversible damage.



Unlike major Hollywood productions, which are preserved by secular studios, the films targeted by GFA were originally created for churches and television. With the advent of the digital age, these works lacked a preservation pathway and gradually faded into obscurity. Recognizing this gap, GFA launched the [Gospel Films Library](#), a cost-free, ad-free curation of hundreds of faith-based films. Always open, the site offers a treasure trove of content for all to explore.

With the Gospel Films Library now available, GFA is moving forward to create an online Gospel Films Museum. This repository will document and permanently preserve the history of 20th-century Christian filmmaking. Over the years, GFA has gathered an extensive array of museum-quality materials, including oral histories, interviews, scripts, articles, filmographies, posters, stills, screenshots, and more. These resources will form the foundation for the planned museum, with sample exhibit topics currently displayed on the [Gospel Films Archive](#) website.

To launch the museum's first year of operations, GFA requires \$500,000. The organization is establishing a Founder's Circle of 10 members, each contributing \$50,000. Once the non-profit museum is operational, ongoing support will come from grants, sponsorships, endowments, and the sale of Gospel Films merchandise featuring the organization's logo. How beneficiaries will be honored and commemorated can be viewed [here](#).

As the Gospel Films Museum develops, it will stand as a living testament to the countless artists, storytellers, visionaries and filmmakers who shaped the spiritual landscape of the previous century. New generations will be invited to explore the intersection of faith and film, gaining insight into this rich and often overlooked facet of cultural history.

Gospel Films Archive was founded in 2012 by Bob Campbell, Ron Hall, and Derek Myers, classic 16mm film collectors and preservationists who discovered numerous neglected religious films from the past century. Their mission became tracking down and preserving as many of these films and television series as possible. Campbell's experience in film preservation goes back to 1979, when he proposed to PBS the concept of recreating the movie-going experiences of earlier decades. The idea took

hold and the series “Matinee at the Bijou” became a major PBS ratings success. In 2024, Campbell, Hall, and Myers began applying the same preservation efforts to *religious* films as they had to *secular* ones.

The Gospel Films Library currently offers 22 categories of film content and nearly 500 titles, including stories from the Old and New Testaments, documentaries, biographies, episodic series, children’s programs, and seasonal films for Christmas and Easter. Unlike big-budget Hollywood epics, these films were created for churches and television and lacked the means for preservation in the digital era.

Throughout film history, many prominent Hollywood figures have contributed to faith-based films, with Gospel Films Archive uncovering works featuring such stars as James Cagney, Joanne Dru, DeForest Kelley, James Mason, Angie Dickinson, James Dean, Thomas Mitchell, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Hugh Beaumont, Jerry Mathers, and many others from the Golden Age of Hollywood and Television.

Those interested in becoming a Gospel Films Museum founder are encouraged to contact Bob Campbell via [gospelfilmsarchve@hotmail.com](mailto:gospelfilmsarchve@hotmail.com)