PROJECT REFORMATION

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Project Reformation presents the process of change Amanda and Robert Bowen went through as they came to recognize Holy Spirit, the part of Trinity that was sent after the death of Jesus (John 15:26). The documentary combines various filming techniques such as observational footage, reenactments, interviews, and CGI to convey the story. This film captures the walk Robert and Amanda took as they re-examine their past, progressing through a series of supernatural encounters into a recognition of purpose and plan behind the events and experiences. While looking back on this journey, the director seeks to reveal the truth that Holy Spirit is in fact "alive and well," and walks with individuals in their daily lives by sharing how the "gifts" of miracles, healing, visions and prophecy are active even in today’s age. In addition, the director desires to reveal the specific message this couple has received through this process: Not to only recognize Holy Spirit, but to reveal the "why" He is now making Himself known in these ways when many would say He has been silent for at least a generation: For reconciliation and restoration, leading to Reformation through Spiritual Healing in Family Ties (Reformation.SHIFT).
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PROSPECTUS

This is the proposal submitted and approved by the thesis committee in November 2015.

TITLE: Project Reformation
LENGTH: 25 minutes
MEDIUM: HD Video

Introduction and Description

Everyday, men and women of faith step away from their safe, comfortable lifestyle in America to enter into a calling to minister to the masses in the name of Jesus Christ. Five years ago, Amanda Bowen, my wife, and I, Robert, both quit our jobs believing we were entering into a higher calling for the Lord. Our journey did not go like we expected. We have taken a few detours and had a few stops along the way, like a failing marriage, unemployment and economic uncertainty; but we have also seen some really unique and awesome things take place, like miraculous healing, radical life-altering events and dramatic last-minute shifts in circumstances; not just in our lives, but in many others’ around us as we stepped out in faith to pray and speak into certain situations.

At the same time, we have consistently confronted our own and others unbelief and a lack of faith in the Lord’s ability or wiliness to do these things. “Unbelieving Believers” as one friend calls it, is a portion of church attendees who believe some of Jesus’ message for His believers was intended specifically and only for his disciples, who became apostles, or the founding members of Christianity. The doctrine, known as cessationism, dictates that certain “gifts” or abilities initially given through Holy Spirit, such as miracles, healings, prophecies and visions, or even an everyday encounter, are no longer necessary, and therefore, no longer “given” to modern-day believers (Cessationism). This doctrine has firmly established itself in Western churches, which at the same time are falling into
decline to the point of dissolving altogether (Einstein, Mara). It is from this perspective that we began our exploration. As we began, we would have told you we believe that God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit are the Trinity, or Triune God, all working together as one: God the father, Jesus the son, and Holy Spirit as our personal assistant through our walk of life, three as one. However, our understanding has shifted as we have come to experience a greater power and authority in our lives than what the cessationist’s mind-set would allow.

As Amanda and I recount our past experiences from Brenham, TX and onward to North Texas, as a beginning to ministry, we will reveal a path that reveals the powers of the Trinity that still exist today. At the same time, our telling will provide a trail for others who desire to become ministers or to encourage those who have already walked this path.

Even when individuals step out in faith, there is usually a story to explain how the specific calling was received. These stories are filled with personal spiritual encounters, serious life changes and radical shifts in life circumstances for the individuals who would choose such a journey. My wife and I have come to realize our story is one of those in that it challenges the status quo of both Christians (especially those with cessationist beliefs) and Atheist. Every instance of healing, reconciliation and restoration we have experienced challenges the lack of faith that proliferates in the United States and the American church. The message is especially timely in light of the cultural shifts that have taken place within the nation in the past year (Bryant, N., BBC; Collison, S., CNN & Smith, K., NYPost). Regardless of the perspective (liberal, conservative, etc), there has been a recognizable shift in the zeitgeist of the United States; or a foundational shift, not just in the overall way in which things are done, but also in the “why.” We recognize there are a number of criticisms against the body of Christian believers; having gone through some serious shifts
in foundational beliefs, we believe we can speak into the current atmosphere of doubt and unbelief with some truths that can lay a new foundation of reconciliation and restoration.

Amanda and I have had some exceptional experiences that are almost unbelievable. As we began to consider the possibilities, we realized we were uniquely qualified to share our story publically. Having studied religion and working as a Master’s level counselor for five years, Amanda tends to have a balanced perspective of the effects of religion and faith on one’s life. Additionally, having ministered within several denominations over twelve years, she has a unique understanding of Christian churches within America, especially those that hold to more of the cessationist doctrine. With my experiences in theatre, and now as a filmmaker, I feel fully prepared to produce a professional documentation of these dramatic events, including dreams, visions and the miraculous. We also have a firm belief we have been brought to this place and given insight into the current zeitgeist, with these life experiences in order to have the opportunity to speak into the issues facing the Christian church, especially in America.

The documentary, *Project-Reformation*, is the compilation of our experience and expertise coming together to present a case study of how one family can be reformed by believing in the impossible and hoping for the unimaginable; and while we do not fully understand the effect it will have, we want to offer hope to increase the faith of any who would have the opportunity to watch it. We believe the God of the Bible is real. He is alive and active today in the same way He interacted with Moses, Joseph, Daniel or even Jesus. Furthermore, we have every expectation that our story will not be the only story of how He moves in miraculous and unexplainable ways to “work all things together for good;” rather it will be the beginning of *Project Reformation.*
Purpose

This documentary is meant to present the process of change we went through to have the testimony to share as we have come to recognize Holy Spirit, the part of Trinity that was sent after the death of Jesus, according to His documented words (John 15:26). We believe God wants to reconcile people's hearts back to himself, even as he reconciles the church body’s relationship with each other. God’s power, through Holy Spirit, is moving to shift the status quo beyond restoration to reformulate the way individuals consider themselves as the “church,” to seek after a “kingdom purpose.” This in turn will reformulate the manner in which “churches” function within their communities. We do not believe we are or will be alone in this quest, leading to the greater purpose of this documentary:

The documentary, Project Reformation, will provide what is known as “testimony” to the credentials we believe we have obtained through personal experience and by the authority of Christian leaders who have known us. First, it will capture the walk that we took through a series of supernatural encounters and into the recognition of purpose and plan behind these events and experiences; From the point where we challenged The Holy Spirit to reveal himself to us sitting in our boat in the middle of the lake, to face our own demons transforming our relationships with each other and almost everyone within our social network, and concluding with a walk of faith in believing that Christ has a mission for us in the present and future. As we go through this, there will be certain things that challenge the cessationist doctrine, and although that is not our primary purpose, it is our experience that our belief in that doctrine has been shattered in this process. We will share
Holy Spirit’s power in the miracles, healings, visions, and prophecies he has worked in and through us, and conclude with the truth that this part of God’s Trinity exists and has power and authority in the world today.

Furthermore, we want to reveal our path toward full-time ministry by looking at our past and moving forward to the present day in order to identify the good and difficult times while on this journey of belief and life. In addition, while looking back on this journey, we want to reveal the truth that Holy Spirit is in fact “alive and well,” and walks with us in our daily lives by sharing how the “gifts” of miracles, healing, visions and prophecy are alive even in today’s age. In doing so, we hope to help those who will walk this path in the future, giving them the encouragement and direction they may need during difficult times.

Finally, I want to reveal the specific message I believe we have received through this process: Not just to recognize Holy Spirit, but to reveal the “why” He is now making Himself known in these ways when many would say He has been silent for at least a generation; for reconciliation and restoration, leading to Reformation through Spiritual Healing in Family Ties (Reformation.SHIFT). When I realized the direction the bible gives us to restore our relationships with our loved ones before ministering outside our immediate family, we began to embark on this journey. I am a firm believer in this mentality: Get your house right first. This is true for individual homes, as much as it is for churches. As we have seen some almost impossible scenarios work themselves out for reconciliation, we have experienced the truth of this message from a biblical perspective. Speaking from that expertise, we hope to break open a new understanding of purpose and plan in the Christian church of America, utilizing this documentary.
Intended Audience

Any who would define themselves as “Christian,” or call themselves Leaders of Christian churches, which we tend to divide into two groups: Cessationist and Charismatic. The hope is that in sharing the story of transformation from Cessationist to Charismatic believer, the documentary will be targeted specifically to individuals and churches that define themselves as cessationist, which is the belief the miraculous power of God ceased with the Apostles of Jesus or 1st century Christian church and are no longer prevalent today.

Transcending the audience of Christian believers and leaders to reach out to those who are interested in life beyond that which is seen, to the mystical or paranormal, including dream, visions and “magical.”

Preproduction Research

Feasibility

This film encompasses the establishment of our ministry; therefore, obtaining permission from the main subjects will not be an issue. I do not see any issues with acquiring permission to film my interview subjects because of the close relationship that exists with them. There may be a few who have the reservations due to the nature of their “issues” that brought about a need for healing and reconciliation. However, knowing they trust us, we are certain we can work through any uncertainties they may have. The expense for travel and lodging will be minimal. With the three main locations within the state of Texas that we will film (Brenham; including the Gulf Coast line, East Texas, and North Texas
region), we have a network of support who have already offered refuge for ourselves and possibly a small crew; therefore, lodging will be minimal. The film crew will be minimal due to the intimacy of the content; consequently, caring for the crew members will be minimal as well. My plan is to align with a composer and painter that have the same values and direction as our ministry, resulting with possible alignment in our ministry. This assignment would become a type of interview for our ministry. Equipment rental will not be necessary because of the opportunity that exists to use the University of North Texas Film Department’s equipment. Archival footage potentially used in the documentary has already been approved for usage.

*Research Summary*

Over the course of the past five years, my wife and I have attended a few conferences, each of which has provided clear direction and even an elevation in our expectations: R.I.S.K with Robby Dawkins, Supernatural Marriage presented by Dr. Dan & Linda Wilson, and MORE by the Vineyard association of churches. In addition, we have continued relationships and mentorship by various leaders in our church. In the process, I have developed my perceptions and understanding as a father and husband, increased my expectations of The Lord's grace and power revealed by the Holy Spirit, and shifted my personal desires to want more than just the status quo.

The R.I.S.K. conference introduced me to the idea that supernatural healing still exists in today’s age. In a way that other experiences did not, my mind was opened to believe I could be used to bring healing, immediate and physical healing, as a means to reveal The Lord’s love for His people. Supernatural Marriage taught me how loving my partner more than myself is the way Christ loves His people. In order to achieve a
supernatural way of being, a person has to allow Jesus into every part of life and the relationships that exists. Then, M.O.R.E. conference brought the expectation to live beyond the norms of a daily ritual; and to live your life in every way, every second for His will and not my own.

In addition, taking an active part in ministry within a church as a young adult, leading up to partnering with my wife, has revealed my deep passion to express God’s love for all in many forms and media. The Word of God is the ultimate guide and considered the most important in my research of understanding Christ’s direction for our lives.

Books


Electronic Resources


https://medium.com/@reifman/shining-light-on-cutoff-culture-5ebf4e53294c


http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/14/magazine/14lives-t.html?_r=0

Visual Media


“The God of the Bible is still doing miracles today. Darren Wilson interviews Christians from various parts of the world to show how God is still working.” (IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1797384/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)


“Follow filmmaker Darren Wilson as he travels to the darkest spiritual climates on the planet to test the limits of God’s love.” (IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1786490/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)


“Through filming incredible spiritual encounters around the world, Darren Wilson cuts through religious misconceptions in an effort to find the true nature and character of God.” (IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2017709/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)


“Can the Holy Spirit direct a movie? In this fast-paced documentary from the director of the popular films Finger of God, Furious Love, and Father of Lights, Darren Wilson sets out to make a movie that is completely led by the Holy Spirit. No plan, no script, no safety net--just go wherever he feels the Spirit leading him to try and discover the adventure God has for him. Whether it’s the riches of Monte Carlo, a heavy metal concert, or the oldest city in the world, the result is a film that not only challenges and excites, but also reveals a God who is far more alive and active than you ever imagined.” (Darren Wilson, IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3747978/plotsummary?ref_=tt_ov_pl)


“Not All Who Wander Are Lost In Holy Ghost Reborn, the sequel to the popular and controversial Holy Ghost, Director Darren Wilson continues his journey around the world
in his quest to make a movie that is completely led by the Holy Spirit. Although the scope of the film is indeed huge, with Darren filming in the middle of a massive protest in Rome, with a witch doctor in Africa, with prostitutes and the homeless in Brazil, amidst the ancient ruins of Greece, and even with a group of Navy SEALS, Holy Ghost Reborn is ultimately a film about one man’s search for the Spirit of God. It is a Spirit that created the Universe, but ultimately desires to reveal the truth of Jesus to all of us, individually. Darren searches for an invisible God, and finds a tangible friend who relentlessly pursues us all.” (Darren Wilson, IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4855188/plotsummary?ref_=tt_ov_pl)

Interviewees

Bowen, Ariel. Phone Interview, March 2014, Jacksonville, Florida.
Bray, Robert. Personal Interview, August 2015, Frisco, Texas
Garcia, Kim. Phone Interview, March 2014, San Antonio, Texas
Moser, Tom & Nancy, Personal Interview, September 2015, Argyle, Texas
Howey, Beth, Personal Interview, June 2015, Brenham, Texas
McMillian, Dale, Personal Interview, September 2015, Frisco, Texas
McMillian, Brian, Personal Interview, September 2015, Little Elm, Texas
Nolen, Mickey. Personal Interview, March 2014, Longview, Texas
Wilson, Dan & Linda, Personal Interview, December 2013, Denton, Texas

Conferences

Supernatural Marriage Conference (Dan & Linda Wilson): Conroe, Texas, February 2012
M.O.R.E. Conference: Brenham, Texas, March 2013

Characters

Amanda Bowen: My wife of twelve years and partner with me in fulfilling a higher calling; counted as having gifts of faith, mercy and prophecy with dreams & vision. She lives in the
North Texas Region in Corral City. She not only helps and balances me in our endeavors, but also home schools our two children.

Robert Bowen: Amanda’s husband. A documentary filmmaker who believes in having a purpose and living for a higher goal. I accept my role of ministering in the name of Jesus, while also working as a Teaching Fellow at the University of North Texas Theatre Department. At the same time, I am earning my second Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Documentary Production and Studies; my first being a MFA from the University of Missouri in Kansas City in 2008. I am also working with a company in the Kansas City area as professional lighting designer. Amanda and I feel led to start a ministry organization, Restoration.SHIFT, to reach out to the churches, both the leadership and body to improve and reestablish the matrimonial and familial bonds hoping to achieve healing and restoration within the Kingdom of God.

Tom & Nancy Moser: Mentors and partners in our ministry, who currently live in Brenham, Texas. They are known for their gifts in service, their teaching and understanding of the spiritual gifts within the body of Christ, and as actively seeking Christ in their daily lives.

Dale McMillian- Pastor of Frisco Vineyard Church in Frisco, Texas, a church plant that started in February 2013. Dale currently lives in Paloma Creek addition outside of Frisco, Texas.

Brian McMillian- Elder of Frisco Vineyard, Life Group leader, and close friend. Brian is best described as one who assist others in finding their place within a system, and managing systems to run more efficiently. He lives in Little Elm, Texas

Robert Bray- Leader in prayer and prophetic revelation for Frisco Vineyard Church.
Brenda Baxter- Walks in discernment and deliverance of the unholy, in order to make way for the Holy.

Beth Howey- Beloved friend and prayer partner of Amanda & I. Lives in Brenham, Texas.

Dan & Linda Wilson- Leaders of Supernatural Marriage ministry; mentors for Amanda and I. Their ministry reaches globally.

*Style and Approach*

This documentary will use a number of styles and approaches to reach the intended audience. First, this film will thrust the audience into the middle of our story, take them on a journey into our past, and then lead them back to the point where the film starts. The story will then continue from that point to the present. Title cards will be used to establish four different phases of our journey. In addition, throughout the various scenes, snippets of running or hiking, and prayer or worshiping, will be placed in order to reveal the daily flow of our life and further the idea of a journey of faith. Some of these events will assist in our ministry.

The audience will see an established shot of the environment and speaker long enough to understand who is speaking. Narration will be used to guide the story along a path, with artistic impressions that will dominate the screen while voiceover clarifies, such as when a dream or vision is being explained. I will have an artist draw in an electronic media or traditional print layers to later import into effects software to create movement of the artistic design that gives the impression of that vision or dream. A voice over will underlay that effect to give verbal understanding what the effect symbolizes or means. Some things will be left to the imagination of the audience. Other scenes will contain reenactments, which may include staged scenes or effects drawing and a voiceover.
Interviews will be used to clarify and reinforce our belief in the direction we are headed.

Observational footage will also be a major component that will establish purpose. There will be two occasions where Amanda and I will be speaking to a church body. During these times, our ministry will be filming the events. The documentary film team will document the process of this ministry in action including the ministry film team. This will give multiple layers to this scene. During these two events, both the ministry team and documentary team will take a “fly on a wall” approach when it comes to filming. These two events will be sprinkled throughout the documentary in its final draft.

I am in the process of aligning with a composer to create the sounds for the film. I also plan on having both hand-held and cinematic approaches used in this film. For example, hand-held capturing will be utilized when documenting live events whereas cinematic techniques will be used for artistic shots such as the vision or dream sequences. I will be wearing multiple hats in this production including filmmaker, director, and ministry partner. Overall, this film will represent who and what we are through artistic impressions utilizing many different mediums.

Treatment

Prologue: It was June 4, 2014, when Amanda (my wife) and I received direction for our ministry that God was preparing us for. There, at Dale McMillian’s residence, a monthly prayer meeting is being held. While praying for us, Robert Bray receives and then gives us “a word” from the Lord. A “word” in this case is insight and understanding what The Lord is been doing in another person’s life and comes from Holy Spirit. Immediately, we knew: a) Holy Spirit that was at work and b) He was doing something specific in our lives.

Considering this as we hike, we recognize that word that Robert speaks brought all
of these other things over the past three years into focus; it was like a culmination of all these things coming together. There had been Amanda’s dream of the taxicab telling her to be ready in four years; and being told the Lord will move us in two years from Lincoln Park over near Aubrey; or another dream saying “you have one year to prepare.” All of these “things” coming together to give us the direction we have been looking for. So what does it mean? Where is it going? We were beginning to believe there is a timeline, or rather a countdown, but the question remained: What is being done? There we were in the midst of some significant Holy Spirit work excitedly awaiting the next move, but in order to understand all that, we have to go back and take a look at the how we started out, being brought to a place of near humiliation that turned our hearts towards humility.

**HUMILITY**

“Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;

You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’

If you remove the yoke from your midst,

The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness,

Isaiah 58:9

On September 25, 2010, Amanda and I are sitting on our boat in the middle of Lake Somerville in Brenham Texas. We had just recently started attending church regularly, after a three-year hiatus. There with our Bible open, Amanda is reading Acts 2 and asks, “I wonder if Holy Spirit still moves like that, with a rushing wind and stuff?” I suggest she asks the Lord (even though my disbelief was in full effect). Amanda gets down on her knees as we pray and quietly ask for Holy Spirit show us if He still moves like that. The lake was smooth as glass with no wind to speak of. We had been sitting in the boat on a cloudy day,
with the engine off. Within seconds of us praying, the wind suddenly picks up and our boat turns on a dime, 360°. The wind stops instantly as if nothing had happened and our boat was left in its original position.

We had challenged the Holy Spirit to reveal himself the way He did in Acts 2:2 and He did in a way that we could not doubt “...as of a rushing mighty wind...” We began to search the scriptures to see how else the Lord or Holy Spirit moved then, to see if He does the same now. This event begins our journey to having a heart of humility, being led by Holy Spirit, getting real (being genuine), and being Lord-lead through forgiveness to restoration and reconciliation.

On October 4, 2010, in a vision of the Lord. Amanda states:

“As I am lying on our bed, reading my Bible, I glance up seeing something out of the corner of my eye. Immediately, I realize there is something significant, but it is an image that I cannot process immediately. I continue to look down and glance back up for the next minute or two, continuing to see the same thing. It is like a picture GIF, still-life but with movement; There standing shoulder-to-shoulder, front-to-back, far out into the distance in front of me and then off to the right, up and over a hill -s what looks like a formation of soldiers. It is a radiant image, glaring almost. There is a silhouette of a bare or blooming tree up on the hill on the other side of soldiers that reminds me of the ‘Tree of Life’ and I hear a voice speaking words I cannot understand. I think, ‘The voice is giving orders or a speech of preparation to the soldiers.’ I cannot see anyone in command, as the voice is booming over the soldiers from a distance.”

We continue to process through this experience as we hike: I had been reading
in Isaiah and so continued to read and I just flipped from there, to I think Ezekiel and Jeremiah. I am not sure, but just anywhere that went together. There were specific words that I remember distinctly, ‘remnant,’ ‘soldiers,’ ‘preparation.’ It took me at least another two or three days to fully process that image. As I came to understand it, it was the Lord speaking to his remnant; He will only sit for so long and allow them to be mistreated or held in captivity. Looking back through Jeremiah and Isaiah and all through the Old Testament, The Lord God only allows his people to be held for so long. And then He would move in great and awesome ways to bring about their release. It was a message of hopeful expectation.

Acts 2:17- "'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;"

We go on to remember how this happening influenced our direction and choices: Having this vision established something new in our lives, although we did not fully understand the implications or ramifications of it. Having never had an experience like this, it was difficult to consider what it is or was about; but being a person of faith, Amanda accepted it as though it was from the Lord. She had met with our pastor and promptly put in a three-week notice at her job, wanting to be fully available for whatever the Lord had planned. At that time, we both began having dreams and were getting “words” in prayer. We began to see the Lord work some things in our life; things we gave Him credit for because we had no other explanation for how they could be; or changes in our thinking and
understanding of the way He works. Even though to many, it looked like we were failing on many accounts. We decided to make some cuts in our spending to extend our savings and minimize expenses, which also eliminated many distractions (no cable/satellite or internet). We were barely making ends meet, but we had a unique opportunity to establish new boundaries and values in our life. For the next year, neither of us held a steady job, but we were able to take a couple of trips (freelance work) and netted new understanding of the Lord’s provision. Referencing Luke 9 & 10, we tested the Lord when He said go with only your belt and tunic. It was a tough time, but very valuable. We began to do what we had done on the boat that day, ask specific questions of the Lord, expecting the same kind of answers: immediate, visible and significant. We were beginning to seriously say, “If the Lord has done this, then what else is there He can do? And how can we make sure we are with Him in doing it?” In other words, we were beginning to believe the Lord for more in our life.

On May 25, 2011, Amanda experiences a dream that has become more significant as things began to progress.

Robert and I are sitting in the back seat of car, being driven down a road. As we progress on the trip, we come to a stop and look up. Apparently, we are looking for road signs, green markers with words and arrows. As we get to the next stop, there is another sign with directions to the next stop. Each sign only gives directions to the next stop. Finally, we come to a stop at a red light in a city square or a busy intersection. A lady on a bicycle comes up next to the cab and begins to call my name. “Amanda! Amanda Bowen!” I open the back door and get up. I was thinking she is blind, in need of help. As I come up to her and help her with her basket on the
front of her bike, she thanks me and says, “Four years.” “What?” I say. “Four years, baby, until you get your ministry.” I am almost sure she said a specific kind of ministry, but I could not hear it well. It is then that I seem to notice a change in the traffic light, because I ran back to the car and get back in. As we are pulling away, I yell out the window to ask her how she knows my name. She says, “The Lord Jesus told me.” Then, we drive off and I wake up.

While hiking, and going back over this dream sequence, Amanda recalls: The “funny” thing about it is that just a day or two before, she had been praying, asking the Lord about a timeline for His plan. We were beginning to seriously say, “If the Lord has done this, then what else is there He can do?” She had asked Him how long before He would bring us into this ministry idea we were beginning to discuss. That same week, she had for the first time in over three years, stepped into a position of leadership within the church. I am not sure I counted it as an answer, but we wrote it down and as Mary did, she “treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart” (Luke 2:19).

**Acts 2:18 – “EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.”**

We also remember that another dream had come in July 2011: Known as the hall of heroes, Hebrews 11 & 12 identifies specific “saints” who both received the promises or continued in faith not having seen the promise fulfilled. So, Amanda had asked, “Lord, these things we are seeing, dreaming and hoping for, will we receive the promise or will we continue in faith that they may be fulfilled in another?”

Amanda describes her dream:
I am riding in a car with my brother through our home town, noticing a lot of abandoned construction. As we drive through town, we talk about what a shame it is that all those apartment buildings and homes are being left abandoned. Continuing on, we pull into a parking lot in front of a beach at sunset (only in my dreams). We get out and look at the water. As we peer out, three things happen. First, a whale goes by from right to left breaching in front of us, just a couple hundred feet from the shore. Then, from the direction of the whale’s departure, a tidal wave emerges, and drifts by in front of us. Finally, off in the distance, across the Gulf, a volcano begins erupting. Interestingly, each of these things is considered magnificent, but not dangerous. After watching the volcano, my brother and I turn back to the parking lot to get in our car. As we walk across the parking lot, news vans and reporters began to pull in to document the “breaking” news. My brother and I just keep walking to our car, celebrating, because apparently in the dream, these were the exact things the Lord had been speaking in us and through us, as things that would actually take place. Then, I wake up.

Amanda processes through this dream, while we are hiking: “I immediately began to realize something significant was going on here and my heart changed. There was a truth in the things I was discovering about the Lord and the ways in which He moved over this earth. I could not continue on as if I had no knowledge of what might be. My prayers changed. I changed.”

Continuing on our hike together, Amanda and I discuss the way our world view was changing, vs. our circumstances at that time: Having asked that question just the day
before, Amanda received this dream as an answer that we will see things prophesied in our time. Again, this was exciting and disconcerting at the same time.

As we pressed on in this journey, we set our hearts to become more submitted and more humble before the Lord. We realized we were entering another season but were still unsure of where it was leading. Some of the things we had dreamed were not “good,” and there was still no sign of steady or gainful employment. Our food budget was down to $25 dollars a week and was being supplemented by an occasional stop at the local food pantry (once every month or two). All around us, people were saying we needed to stock up, by guns, and go off-grid in preparation for some cataclysmic event that was going to strike our nation. All of a sudden, we had an answer that said He was going to fulfill His word to us in our lifetime? Was this an “end times” thing or just a personal plan? We were about as humble as we could get, and this race was taking a much different course than the one we thought we were taking at the start.

GETTING REAL

   And if you give yourself to the hungry,

   And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,

   Then your light will rise in darkness,

   And your gloom will become like midday.

   Isaiah 58:10

We go on to recognize another shift as we continue. By October of 2011, the stress of our finances and a painful history had taken its toll; our marriage was on the brink of disaster. Even though or maybe because we were gaining this new world view, we were
beginning to expect more from each other, even as we were expecting more from the Lord. Amanda had picked up on what seemed like bitter resentment, that I seemed to resent her success, her presence and that of our children in my life, or anyone that asked any little thing that inconvenienced me. Finally having confided in a friend and being encouraged to pray for me specifically, Amanda comes into our bedroom while I am sleeping. **Luke 9:1 – “And he called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.”**

I had gotten up to check on the baby, and decide to go ahead and try praying specifically, just the way my friend had suggested, as though the Lord has the authority to act with just a spoken word from me. As I begin praying over him, specifically against a “spirit of resentment,” being very bold, declaring it to leave his body; a weird thing happens. The room is dark, except the light from the bathroom door; I see what looks like the shape of a face, like a reverse negative, raise up out of Robert’s torso area. And then, it laughs. Now, I am not hearing it laugh necessarily, but I know that is what it was doing, mocking me. I do not know why, but for some reason, I get mad instead of fearful. I think, “Oh no you don’t!” and begin to speak out loud, “In the name of Jesus, be gone! Go out of this man, out of this house and out the window. Go into that roach outside the window (thinking of how Jesus sent the demon, Legion, into a heard of pigs)!” I am very passionate, almost demanding. Immediately, it goes flying out the window, to where I can only assume. It would have been comical if it were not such a serious situation. And simply, amusingly, I say “amen” and lay down in
bed, contemplating what I would say to Robert tomorrow.”

We continue our story as we journey down this trail. By that next morning, Amanda had decided not to say anything, because 1) She did not know where he was on believing such things; and 2) What would he think if she told him a demon flew out of him through the window in our bedroom? She was a little panicked and nervous. She looked for proof of a change though, so the next day, when I met one of the Sunday school teachers at church to paint one of the rooms and she walked in, I was almost giddy. I was very excited over the paint we had just found. After a few minutes, and with little reason to do so, I put both arms straight up into the air and yelled, “Freedom!!” It was a shout of joy mimicking William Wallace in the movie, “Braveheart.” That was all the proof Amanda needed. I would love to say things got better after that, but honestly, there seemed to be even more conflict and struggle in our marriage. Amanda was pressing into this new level of faith, and I was still following my old checklist of do’s & don’ts. She had been working in the church and I was struggling to figure out what I needed to be doing. It was like climbing a mountain in running shoes.

I begin to recognize a significant moment in this journey as we walk up rough terrain. January 2012 is acknowledged as one of most difficult months in my life. Just a few weeks before, Amanda had essentially told me that our marriage was over and that she could no longer trust my assurances for change. I had already asked her to give me another chance year after year; however, I had failed time and again to follow through with that commitment. So I can understand why she wouldn't believe that I would change when I had told her yet again. I knew I could not personally change myself and I needed guidance to
rectify our marriage. I was beginning to listen to the Lord and follow Him in His direction instead of trying to fix it myself. I asked Amanda not to trust me but the trust the Lord; not to look at me but to see me through God’s eyes. Soon after this discussion, I left on business to Kansas City strongly felt I needed to go to a church that we had previously attended while there.

While at church, I am standing in the back of the sanctuary, I feel the Holy Spirit presence in that room. He is tugging at my heart. I am emotional and crying, feeling as if I am the only person in the room. The pastor offers a time to go down front to the alter for prayer. I have a strong inclination about going down. Once there, I get on my knees and I began to ask for His mercy, His direction and guidance. At this time, I feel His presence all over me starting with a hand on my shoulder and I know it was Him by the peace that enters into me.

There was physically a person that came up behind me and put his hand on my shoulder, but my faith told me the Spirit was talking to me. He was using that man as a way to share with me that everything will be okay. Believing the Lord answered me, having faith that I was speaking to Him, I left there encouraged, and immediately became determined to become an encouragement to Amanda. This became a time of transformation in my life to become the father and husband He wants me to be. *Acts 9:1-18 – Just like Paul’s* encounter with the Lord.

During an interview, Dan and Linda Wilson speak into how they hope their ministry affects marriages, having met them at their Supernatural Marriage conference in Conroe, Texas. We follow up with recognizing how our marriage would be a testimony of the power behind this ministry as we are hiking. While it took Amanda another 6 months to develop
trust in me, we were finally getting real with each other. We were also discovering that being honest about our problems and issues with our mentors is a key to growing and maturing into a genuine love for self and others.

We remember that in September of that year, Tom and Nancy Moser invited me to a Robby Dawkins or R.I.S.K. conference. Tom shares, in an interview, the truth Robby Dawkins spoke into me about how I will be used in the ministry; and the purpose of this conference that reveals healing is real and actively available through Holy Spirit. [Tom is and was a mentor for my marriage and me as a father and individual.] Seeing healing take place with my own eyes began to change my perspective on supernatural healing, both in the physical and spiritual. Having that authority handed over to me was undaunting.

As 2013 rolled in, so did a number of other changes as well. My wife and I had been teaching the youth at our church in Brenham, leading them in an active ministry of prayer and healing. We utilized a major motion picture to demonstrate the characteristics of the Beatitudes from Matthew. And while we realized the danger of upholding the movie as some kind of biblical representation, we were seeing the impact it was already having on our students. Interestingly enough, as we got deeper into our study, the elements from the movie became more minimal and the action of ministry began to take over. Through this study, Amanda and I began to hear profound testimony from parents about how their children had changed in positive ways, stories that included more honor of their authority and students reaching out to help others in their everyday lives. I also had the opportunity see a healing of one of the youth, while trying to demonstrate how you can pray for healing. This was proof for me of Holy Spirit power to me and also to them as well. This led to those teens to healing others. Essentially, the junior high children were beginning to actively
walk in ministry, reaching out to others previously unknown to them, offering prayer for healing and hope in dark times. It was profound. But, even though I had finally found a full-time job, we still had to supplement our groceries with an occasional stop at the local food pantry. I had started looking for better options to support us that would change our course in a significant way.

In February 2013, our church held a conference simply titled, “M.O.R.E.,” which was focused on becoming more like Jesus, more active in the way we minister and more aware of His power and authority in our life. Just before the conference, I had received acceptance and provision to go back to school in North Texas to study documentary filmmaking. Leaving our church, a part of the family that helped to heal us and our marriage was difficult to accept. Beth Howey, a trusted friend, speaks during an interview, to our growth in our marriage. Hearing a confirmation from the Lord was imperative for us to make such a drastic move away from those that helped us and our marriage. Once again, we asked a specific question of the Lord and He answered specifically: “Are we supposed to move and if so, immediately, or later?” Beth speaks to the confirmation spoken through her. This is the third confirmation for us to move given over course of the weekend. We knew then, this was the best thing for us to do, even if it was difficult to leave our comfort zone. We were stepping in a new direction, almost immediately.

**John 16:13** – “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

During an interview, Mickey, Amanda’s brother, discusses his visit with us that weekend as we prayed for their father who was having serious medical complications from
two clogged arteries. After the conference, Mickey back home encouraged to pray, putting his hands on their dad’s body to pray for healing. Now documented as a “medical anomaly,” the blockage disappeared going from 95-100% in two arteries, to 0-5% in both, and although he did not understand why or how, her dad knew he had been healed.

While he was adjusting to the new healing, we were beginning our transition across the state to consider a new phase in our journey, and what it meant to be “led by Holy Spirit.”

**LED BY HOLY SPIRIT**

*And the Lord will continually guide you,*

*And satisfy your desire in scorched places,*

*And give strength to your bones; And you will be a watered garden,*

*And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.*

*Isaiah 58:11*

During this time, we had our hearts turned to the Lord, wanting to keep our course set in the direction He was taking us. We had no savings, and so decided to sell as much as we could to make money for the move. Also during this season, Amanda was having more dreams that seemed to be significant, but we were not sure how or why.

In one dream she sees Jesus returning on a cloud from the East, just like the Bible says: “I remember thinking, in the dream, ‘Oh, so that is how everyone will see Him at the same time...’ and laughing at the absurdity of it. As I stood there in a large city, people around me began to scream and run. Apparently, they did not see the Jesus I saw, in radiant clouds descending. Instead, they saw a dragon coming with fire and destruction. The ones who saw a dragon were those who had not
believed in Jesus before that moment and so responded in fear. As I watched the people run in fear, I grabbed Robert’s hand to go tell as many as I could the truth. I thought if only I could get them to realize the truth of who Jesus was...” I woke up thinking; this is why we had to leave Brenham; so we could share the truth of Jesus as a loving, gracious and forgiving God.

Our path turns sharply as we reminisce about our move to North Texas; by May of 2013, we had settled into Lincoln Park, just outside Denton, TX. Once again, we were wondering how long we would remain in that place, and how long before we were going to move into whatever it was the Lord was taking us...As Amanda was traveling back from Dale McMillan’s, our pastor, she was praying and asking the Lord those specific questions:

All of a sudden, I see (or maybe imagine) a lot of construction. Construction in places where there is not yet construction. It was like looking at an overlay over a picture, since I can almost see through it, but it looks real. I begin to consider the changes in the economy many people have been predicting and what that would mean for this area that was obviously experiencing a boom and in comparison to dreams I had had. Then I hear the Lord say, “Two years. In two years I will move you. It will be as if you are forced out against your will, but you will know I have done it and so will go in peace.”

We continue to reflect on what this means and how it directs us in our journey. Once again, we saw this as a type of timer. But, we really weren’t sure what that meant and knowing my graduate program that had not yet started was three years, it left us with more questions than it answered. Through the course of our move, we had discovered how to be led by Holy Spirit, how to trust His voice and seek wise counsel to confirm His presence in
our choices. But, if we were going to accomplish all of the dreams He was putting in our hearts, we were gonna need His forgiveness to bring reconciliation within our families and restoration of bonds that had been severed by distance and time. This became our new focus.

As we sit down to rest, we explain how our journey continued. That fall, I began the MFA program at North Texas. I chose to document *Supernatural Marriage* as my film choice to create in my first year, to share the process of our healing of our marriage. In doing so, I was reminded of a statement I had made almost two years before that if we made it through the conflicts, we should create a film that illustrates our experiences for others that have similar issues, and maybe alleviate the sense of isolation that comes with difficult times. We are realizing this process is laying the foundation for what our ministry will be about.

This was also a time for us to test out our new found comprehension of how Holy Spirit leads us in life. We were seeing even more evidence of answered prayer and miraculous circumstances. One of Amanda’s cousins, who she had been close to as a child and prayed for him to be freed from addiction, was radically saved from a devastating motorcycle accident at the end of August just after school had started. His account is this:

While running from the police, drunk and high, he wrecks his bike and lay on the side of the road for 8 hours before he was found with injuries so back they were not going to admit him into the hospital thinking he die in the emergency room. Both lungs are collapsed. His pelvic bone and a few ribs are broken. His right arm was essentially ripped off, held on only by the skin and soft tissue. Three times, though, a woman’s voice tells him he is not going to die, and that God has a plan for his life. Amanda is the first one to have an
opportunity to pray for him in the hospital. As she walks in with her sister and brother-in-law, he begins to cuss and complain at having visitors, even though he had not seen them in more than 5 years. She immediately puts her hand on top of his head, and begins praying in the spirit quietly. He says, “What are you doing?!” To which she answers, “Be quiet, I’m praying for you.” Immediately, his demeanor changed and he begins to demonstrate gratitude at having an opportunity to reconnect with her and her family.

**Ephesians 6:18 – “praying at all times in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication for all the saints”**

While continuing the hiking expedition, we also continue to discuss this occurrence, realizing his marriage had been restored, he remained free of addiction and gave His life over to the Lord.

As we entered the spring of 2015, we began to realize our two years was coming to an end and so began to expect big things. Even so, we were not prepared for how the Lord moved to move us. In February, we received a notice that we had to be off the property we had our trailer on by June 15. Thinking this was good timing (after the school year was finished), we recognized it as the Lord’s doing, just as He had said He would do and rejoiced that we did not have to move by April 15 like our neighbors immediately to our north side. On April 19, we received another notice. Apparently, they had misfigured the electric and property lines. Since the property belonged to someone else who wanted to initiate construction immediately, we needed to move immediately. Despite our expectations and best efforts to fight the move, we were pushed or forced off the property much sooner than we initially expected, but exactly two years from the date we moved in. And while we had thought the move would be more monumental, The Lord moved us to a place we had not
previously considered, to the other side of Denton to a town called Corral City, just 30 miles away. But by this, we knew God’s work was in full force.

[This takes us back to where we first started, to Robert Brae and the prayer meeting at Dale McMillan’s home on June 4, 2014.] Robert, during an interview, said that we have completed the first three chapters and that we’re entering a new chapter, a New Beginnings.

NEW BEGINNINGS

“And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins;
You will raise up the age-old foundations;
And you will be called the repairer of the breach,
The restorer of the streets in which to dwell.”

*Isaiah 58:12*

In an interview, Dale and Wendi McMillan comment on how turning the father’s heart back to the children and the children back to the father is vital to the Lord. Shortly after receiving that word, Amanda had another dream, giving a specific time: “one year to prepare for ‘explosive changes.’” At the same time, I was preparing for my second year documentary at North Texas. I had a strong conviction my topic for this documentary should reflect the issues at hand with my daughter. This documentary, named *Life-Altering* reflects on reconciliation and restoration. Upon completion of this documentary in May 2015, the main audience member was my daughter. It was an open letter to her, to demonstrate my love for her, hoping it would propel our relationship from near death to flourishing. Based on Robert Brae’s words and the other dreams, prayers, etc. we were beginning to put the pieces together to realize the direction the Lord was leading us. We
were beginning to recognize a pattern of reconciliation in our life and to believe our ministry would be based on these experiences. If the Lord is going to change His churches, His people must begin to realize that their relationships within their families are important, especially between parents and children. Restoring families, not just marriages, has become one expectation of our efforts in ministry.

During an interview, Robert Brae and we review a final confirmation that came in the spring of 2015: While at church, Robert Brae spoke from the Holy Spirit to Amanda and I. Referencing Ezekiel 37, he answered our question, “You will be mobile. You will be pulling into churches; called in advance, to call out the dry bones.” Who are the dry bones? The ones in need of healing and restoration. He goes on to explain, we would then speak healing and prophetic words into them to restore them; and then, speaking figuratively, not just the skin and sinew would be replaced on them but also taking it a step further to even greater than what they were before, to receive the full armor of the Lord.

Receiving this word from Robert confirms another word spoken into us by Brian McMillian during another interview: Brian shares how our ministry can and will be effective for the Lord. Brian’s words confirm that we will align with the other ministry partners, that we will be called by churches rather than having to “seek out work.” Following this interview, we minister at a church in Keller, TX sharing our experience and doing what we do, which will be seen through archival footage.

Finally, we conclude our hike, we remember we are also called to lean on the passage, Isaiah 49, which again indicates restoration is to become a focus of our hearts. By this time, we are realizing our call is greater than marriage and families, even though those things are important. The Lord wants to reestablish His “churches,” bodies of believers, to
Him in reconciliation and restoration with each other and the fullness of His glory.

Ministry film footage from the Prayer House in Gladewater on January 15, 2016 will recognize how we are being used to influence and promote change. This concludes the documentary and will be a culmination of things being done now in preparation for filming:

Our ministry organization’s name is Restoration.SHIFT. We are in the process of aligning ministry partners and supporters to assist with the needs we expect of a mobile ministry (gas, food, lodging, etc). In the next few months, we have scheduled to share at two different locations to teach on marriage, healing, and restoration. We will present our testimony and exploring the message we have received from Holy Spirit. It will contain spontaneous interactions that cannot be defined in advance, but should exemplify the overall purpose of our ministry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visual Recording</th>
<th>Audio Recording</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter: Humility – Holy Spirit Moves</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Mix of Painted Movement/Reenactment)</td>
<td>Amanda on hike: The Holy Spirit moves when you ask him too.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A wide angle of Amanda and me resting on a rock with our hiking gear sitting next to us. The background displays a field of grass and trees as the wind is blowing. As I begin to share our account of Holy Spirit moving, a fade to an artistic painting of an empty boat with water surrounding it on a still, blue sky day. When the wind begins to pick up, movement of the electronic drawing is seen to emphasize the wind blowing. A sudden close-up view of a boat in the water turns 360 degrees. This will be accomplished with a reenactment. A cut back to Amanda and me sitting on the rock resting will be the next scene in this sequence explaining how this has affected our lives. This concludes this</td>
<td>I speak to this account through voice-over:&lt;br&gt;On September 25, 2010, Amanda and I were sitting on our boat in the middle of Lake Somerville in Brenham Texas. We had just recently started attending church regularly, after a three-year hiatus. There with our Bible open, Amanda was reading Acts 2 and asked, “I wonder if Holy Spirit still moves like that, with a rushing wind and stuff?” I suggested she ask the Lord (even though my disbelief was in full effect). Amanda got down on her knees as we prayed and quietly asked for Holy Spirit show us if He still moved like that. The lake was smooth as glass with no wind to speak. We had been sitting in the boat on a cloudy day, with the engine off. Within seconds of us praying, the wind suddenly picked up and</td>
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our boat turned on a dime, 360°. The wind stopped instantly as if nothing happened and our boat was left in its original position.

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<tr>
<th><strong>Army Vision (Mix of Reenactment/Archival/Voice-over)</strong></th>
<th>As Amanda and I are hiking, she begins to share her vision.</th>
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<td>A voice-over with a far-shot from behind of Amanda standing on a cliff begins the reenactment scene. A dolly-push towards her cutting to her point-of-view looking out at the terrain. The next frame consists of a camera shot positioned from behind both Amanda and I standing side-by-side looking forward. An extreme close-up on her face follows, cutting to archival footage of a mountain side and canyons from a birds-eye-view.</td>
<td>She speaks to this account through voice-over: On October 4, 2010, in a vision of the Lord. Amanda states: As I am lying on our bed, reading my Bible, I glance up, seeing something out of the corner of my eye. Immediately, I realize there is something significant, but it is an image that I cannot process immediately. I continue to look down and glance back up for the next minute or two, continuing to see the same thing. It is like a picture GIF, still-life but with movement; There standing shoulder-to-shoulder, front-to-back, far out into the distance in front of me and then off to the right, up and over a hill is what looks like a formation of soldiers. It is a radiant image, glaring almost. There is a silhouette of a bare or blooming tree up on the hill on the other side of soldiers that reminds me of the ‘Tree of Life’ and I hear a voice speaking words I cannot understand. I think, ‘The voice is giving orders or a speech of preparation to the soldiers.’ I cannot see anyone in command, as the voice is booming over the soldiers from a distance.</td>
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| **Chapter: Getting Real – spirit of Resentment (Reenactment).** | Amanda on hike: God's power is real and |
A wide angle of Amanda and I walking along a path in the wilderness with backpacks is the first part in this sequence. Amanda begins to share that God’s power is real and now. As she begins to explain the story about the evil spirit inside me, a cut-away of her walking up to the doorway of a darkened room is seen. Next, the audience notices the only furniture in this room is a bed in the middle. There I lay asleep. A close-up of Amanda’s face follows, with her deciding to pray for me. As she prays, a view of the bed in a medium shot is established. A dolly-in to the bed reveals an evil spirit raising up out of me. A quick cut-away back to Amanda reveals her speaking against the spirit. The camera turns back to the bed with the spirit leaving me and exiting through the window. The view of the spirit leaning up and exiting will be created in After-Effects. I will use motion blur to help establish the desired outcome. A wide-angle cut-away back to Amanda and I walking on the hike is the next scene in this sequence as she concludes with the story. This completes the end of this sequence.

Amanda’s voice-over during the reenactment:

I had gotten up to check on the baby, and had decided to go ahead and try praying specifically, just the way my friend had suggested, as though the Lord had the authority to act with just a spoken word from me. As I began praying over him, specifically against a “spirit of resentment,” being very bold, declaring it to leave his body; a weird thing happened. The room was dark, except the light from the bathroom door; I saw what looked like the shape of a face, like a reverse negative, raise up out of my torso area. And then, it laughed. Now, I did not hear it laugh necessarily, but I knew that is what it did. I do not know why, but for some reason, I got mad instead of fearful. I thought, “Oh no you don’t!” and spoke out loud, “In the name of Jesus, be gone! Go out of this man, out of this house and out the window. Go into that roach outside the window (thinking of how Jesus sent the demon into the heard of pigs)!” I was very passionate and almost demanding. Immediately, it went flying out the window, to where I can only assume. It would have been comical if it had not been such a serious situation.
<table>
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<th>Transformation – Mix of Reenactment/Voice-over</th>
<th>As Amanda and I are hiking, I begin to share my experience through voice-over:</th>
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<tr>
<td>The reenactment begins with a voice-over followed by my point-of-view walking down a church aisle toward the front. Next is a shot of me from behind looking up in a smoke-filled environment with a hand coming in from off frame touching his shoulder. At the same time, the lighting intensity increases. I then begins to look up toward the sky.</td>
<td>While at church, I am standing in the back of the sanctuary, I feel the Holy Spirit presence in that room. He is tugging at my heart. I am emotional and crying, feeling as if I am the only person in the room. The pastor offers a time to go down front to the alter for prayer. I have a strong inclination about going down. Once there, I get on my knees and I began to ask for His mercy, His direction and guidance. At this time, I feel His presence all over me starting with a hand on my shoulder and I know it was Him by the peace that enters into me.</td>
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<th>Chapter: Led by the Holy Spirit – Interpretation (Mix both Paint/Reenactment)</th>
<th>Amanda on hike: Some interpret this as not good but some as good.</th>
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| A medium shot is taken while Amanda holds a plant in her hand while on the hiking trail. She discusses how this plant can be interpreted differently. A cut to Amanda smiling standing in a smoke-filled lit room looking up (reenactment) is followed by an impressionistic sketched drawing of Jesus coming in clouds across the sky (after-effects to create movement). A sudden cut to an empty smoked-filled, darkened room is seen (reenactment) followed a cut of a large dragon (sketch drawing, after-effects to create movement) approaching. The sound of people screaming is heard. The audience then is brought back to Amanda and me standing on the hiking trail discussing how sharing this dream was vital. This concludes the sequence. | Amanda's dream: In one dream, she saw Jesus returning on a cloud from the East:  
“I remember thinking, in the dream, ‘Oh, so that is how everyone will see Him at the same time…’ and laughing at the absurdity of it. As I stood there in a large city, people around me began to scream and run. Apparently, they did not see the Jesus I saw, in radiant clouds descending. Instead, they saw a dragon coming with fire and destruction. The ones who saw a dragon were those who had not believed in Jesus before that moment and so responded in fear. As I watched the people run in fear, I grabbed Robert’s hand to go tell as many as I could the truth. I thought if only I could get them to realize the truth of who Jesus was…” |
Intro Scene sequence:

- The beginning of the film will start off with the subject’s point-of-view noticing very low light, mostly darkness and hearing a panting voice with the sound of feet hitting the ground. A slow, medium cut follows of me running. The next scene cuts to a dolly-in on the Frisco Vineyard Church pulpit with the voice-over from Robert Brae briefly speaking prophecy about Amanda and me. This is followed by a voice-over of me while a dolly-in at a house/home focusing on a bible, opened on a coffee table. The only thing in the room is sofas, the bible, and the table.

Points of usage:

- The film will begin and end with me running, as a metaphor to represent what Christ desires His people to do. Hebrews 12:1 NASB “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” 1 Corinthians 9:24 NASB “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such as way that you may win.” This represents our journey to the end goal of ministry.

- Hiking will be introduced into this film as well. Our hiking will be the basis of our vehicle in telling the amazing stories Holy Spirit has done in our lives. I will want to make a parallel with our journey hiking to that of when Jesus walked with his disciples sharing different parables. Motivation for sharing what has happened in our lives will be influenced by our surroundings. The physical hike also parallels
our walk through the timeline representing the process it took for us to be led into ministry.

Financing

The film, Project Reformation, will be produced here in the state of Texas where the main cost would be transportation costs, including meals while on the road. A small crew will allow for an economical vehicle for transportation. Staying with colleagues, friends and family will cover our overnight needs and main meals during the shoot. Therefore, the production budget will largely be directed to transportation costs and food. Additional money will also be needed for festival entry to be raised during the post-production phase. These monies will be obtained from donations made through IndieGoGo and personal supporters of our ministry.

Distribution Possibilities

Project Reformation will be submitted to the following film festivals:

Plants and Pillars Film Festival  
Date: September 11, 2015  
Location: Birmingham, AL

168 Film Project and Festival  
Date: August 28-29, 2015  
Location: Los Angeles, CA

Biola Media Conference  
Date: May 2, 2015  
Location: Studio City, CA

IFFF – International Family Film Festival  
Date: November 6-8, 2015

International Christian Film Festival  
Date: October 4, 2015
Location: Woodbridge Community Church located at 5000 Barranca Pkwy – Irvine, CA 92604

**Justice Film Festival**  
Date: February 23, 2014  
Location: Downtown Independent 251 S. Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Life Fest Film Festival**  
Date: April 30 – May 3, 2015  
Location: Hollywood, CA

**PPFF – The Pan Pacific Film Festival**  
Date: August 6-8, 2015  
Location: Grace Ministries Intl, Fullerton, CA

**Princebury Film Festival** (Formerly known as SDCFF: San Diego Christian Film Festival)  
Date: September 30 – October 4, 2015  
Location: San Diego, California

**Central Florida Christian Film Festival**  
Date: May 1-3, 2015  
Location: Altamonte Chapel, Altamonte Springs, FL

**Gideon Media Arts Conference and Film Festival**  
Date: July 11-15, 2014  
Location: Orlando Airport Marriott

**International Christian Film Festival**  
Date: April 28-30, 2016  
Location: B Resort & Spa Orlando, FL

**ICVM: International Christian Visual Media Catalyst Conference** (Changes Location Every Year)  
Date: June 24-27, 2015

**Merrimack Valley Christian Film Festival**  
Date: March 29 – April 5 2015 (Festival is always held during Holy Week)  
Location: Showcase Cinema,6 Chickering Rd, Lawrence, MA 01843

**GRCFF – GloryReelz Christian Film Festival**  
Date: June 12-13, 2015  
Location: **Hilton Garden Inn Detroit/Novi 27355 Cabaret Drive Novi, MI 48377**

**MWCFA – Midwest Christian Filmmakers Academy**  
Date: July 20-24, 2015  
Location: **Pens & Needles Lakeside Lodge**, Detroit Lakes, MN
Churches Making Movies Christian Film Festival  
Date: October 9-11, 2015  
Location: Woodbridge Renaissance, Iselin, New Jersey

RE:IMAGE Film Festival  
Date: TBA  
Location: Manasquan, NJ

Great Lakes Christian Film Festival  
Date: Aug 16-19, 2015  
Location: South Buffalo, New York

Hollywood Christian Film Festival of New York  
Date: April 25, 2014  
Location: New York

Ocktober Music and Film Festival – (Christian Film Category)  
Date: October 15-19, 2013  
Location: My Image Studios, 46 W 116th Street, New York, NY 10026

Pocono Mountains Film Festival PMFF  
Date: 2014 TBA  
Location: New York

Projecting Hope Film Festival – Charlotte  
Date: March, 2015  
Location: Charlotte, NC

The Narrow Way Film Festival  
Date: July 15-17, 2016  
Location: Philadelphia, PA

Projecting Hope Film Festival – PA  
Date: October 2-4, 2015  
Location: Cranberry Cinemas

ENFOQUE: International Christian Short Film Festival in Puerto Rico  
Date: November 21-23, 2013  
Location: Teatro La Perla, Ponce Puerto Rico

Kingdomwood Christian Film Festival  
Date: October 2-5, 2015  
Location: Hilton Head, SC

FAM Fest
Date: 2015  
Location: Sylvia Theater, York, SC

**NRB International Christian Media Convention**  
Date: February 23-26, 2015  
Location: Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN

**Bedias Texas Christian Film Festival**  
Date: Beginning July 17, 2014 – Films are shown 3rd Thursday Christian Movie Night  
Location: Miller’s Theatre, Navasota, TX

**Christian Worldview Film Festival**  
Date: March 14-19, 2016  
Location: San Antonio, TX

In addition to these screenings, the expectation of churches viewing this film is highly probable.

**Social Media Timeline**

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<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>Availability</th>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook (Ministry's)</td>
<td>Inform our supporters and followers</td>
<td>11/8/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website (Ministry's)</td>
<td>Inform our supporters and followers</td>
<td>11/8/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vimeo</td>
<td>Trailers</td>
<td>1/10/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youtube</td>
<td>Trailers</td>
<td>1/10/16</td>
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**Schedule for Pre-Production, Production, Post-Production**

**Pre-Production**

May-November  
Research, Contacts, Proposal  
Denton, TX

**Production**

Nov. 8, 2015  
Grace Vineyard Church  
Keller, TX

Nov. 2015  
Interview/Church Sequence  
Frisco, TX

Dec. 15-18, 2015  
Interviews/Ocean Seq./Lake Seq.  
Brenham/Galveston, TX

Dec. 20, 2015  
Interviews/sequences  
Little Elm, TX
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<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 25-26, 2015</td>
<td>Hiking Footage/Running</td>
<td>Montalba, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 2015</td>
<td>Running</td>
<td>Corral City, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 15-16, 2015</td>
<td>The Prayer Room</td>
<td>Gladewater, TX</td>
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**Post-Production**

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Jan.-Apr.</td>
<td>Editing, Sound, Effect Layering</td>
<td>Denton, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Premiere at University of North Texas</td>
<td>Denton, TX</td>
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RECONCEPTUALIZATION BEFORE PRODUCTION

In assessing the treatment plan of this documentary and understanding that my desired time was between twenty and thirty minutes, I realized that shaving the original plan down was a necessity. I decided to cover four main experiences considered vital as vignettes, hoping to maintain the original concept for the audience to follow. Specifically, I decided to use reenactments to demonstrate each incident, beginning with when we asked Holy Spirit to show His power, followed by a visual of Amanda’s authority from The Lord to call out the spirit of resentment, leading to the transformation of my life and finishing with a visual representation of a dream demonstrating a certain perception of The Lord and His mighty power. While this reshaped the story by leaving out many details and experiences along the way, it pushed me to become more focused in how the story is being told.

Similarly, prior to production, I realized how much more effective the film would be if I captured Amanda in the process of interviewing the subjects, highlighting her exploration of the subject matter through discussions with those that could be considered “professionals” in the field as well as with others who had similar spiritual experiences both with and without her, further revealing the journey of this story.

Initially, I was also in search of an artist who could recreate the visions, miracles, and prophecies vital to the reenactments into an electronic medium. However, not finding anyone who would work within the budget; I began to reconsider and then determined it would be better if Amanda would draw the images herself digitally, thus conveying her attempts to reconnect to those memories. I would film the process of her
drawing out these accounts as further evidence of the journey.

Finally, in discussing with my thesis committee the audience’s ability to actually see the effects of the journey and the resulting change in my life, the recommendation was made to include footage from prior self-assessing documentaries such as *Life-Altering* and *Supernatural Marriage*, believing it would show the physical change from the “before” to the present that has taken place in my life, which would potentially result in the audience members connecting the physical with the spiritual shift being focused on in this story.
INTEGRATION OF
THEORY AND PRACTICE

Filming Choices

Project Reformation uses an ethnographic approach mixed with the observational style of Fredrick Wiseman, as well as interviews and other techniques to convey a story of a spiritual journey from personal experiences. Combining varying styles allows me to take advantage of the maximum available resources to tell an effective story.

“...Wiseman’s observational approach has merits of its own. His quiet, patient presentation of staff and doctor-patient conversations serves as a correlative for the experiences of medical professionals and families, when patients and families waver between hyperacuity and defensiveness” (Benson, xvi). In addition, “...the absence of written captions or narration or talking-head interviews, the structural freedom permitting scenes out of chronological sequence and intercutting of apparently unrelated episodes—but stands quite distinctly apart in its mood and texture” (Wiseman, Obrien 114) exemplifies the philosophy of Frederick Wiseman’s approach to film-making, particularly in the film, High School. With these things in mind, the two speaking engagements shared from Vineyard of Grace and The Prayer House gave us an opportunity to enlighten the audience and highlight specific points on the journey, but were not incorporated in chronological order, nor with captions explaining time or place. They were also filmed similar to Wiseman’s “fly on the wall” observational style.

As further evidence, Robert Flaherty’s film, Nanook of the North, is a story of nature and observational footage. Man’s survival and care for his family in a difficult situation
comes to the forefront (Spence & Navarro, 139-141). Comparatively, *Project Reformation* is a spiritual journey in search of what Holy Spirit desires for us to share and learn. Considering Flaherty’s style, I purposefully reveal behind-the-camera scenes of Amanda in an inquisitive mode asking questions to guide her in this process.

**Structural Techniques**

The combined use of structural techniques and conflicts strengthen the storyline with an expectation to educate the viewer with a better appreciation for the subject’s choices. My intention for this film is to convey a statement that Louise Spence and Vinicius Navarro allude to: "Seeing commonalities can be moving, but, perhaps even more importantly, it can cause us to think about what these experiences portend" (104). Furthermore, John Ellis’s *Documentary: Witness and Self-Revelation*, Paul Ricoeur states, “There is no story if our attention is not moved along by a thousand contingencies. That is why a story has to be followed to its conclusion. So rather than being predictable, a conclusion must be acceptable” [Riceour 1980: 174] (Ellis, 69). With Spence and Navarro mentioning the audience’s desire to understand the film, deeming it necessary to connect to unfamiliar topics, and also having the opportunity to learn and potentially grow from the subject’s experiences, it is the responsibility of the filmmaker to consider these factors when structuring a film (103-104). Filmmakers should answer the question of what the viewer will interpret from his or her film. There are so many structural elements in this film, such as computed generated imagery (CGI), reenactments, testimonial and expert interviews, music and sound, framing, pacing, and title cards; yet, each one is used to bring congruency between the audience and the film’s message, so there is understanding and
even agreement in how the subject's continue their journey.

Working with Amanda, I decided to use CGI in hopes of increasing the opportunity for audience members to gather a more accurate idea of the vision; thereby increasing the mindset of the subject. Although not necessarily the most important, CGI is significant in considering how the film should "...help foster affiliation among people who have little physical contact" with the subject (Spence and Navarro, 104). Utilizing observational footage of Lake Summerville, the actual location of the original and first documented event, along with green-screened footage of the boat digitally recreates the event as it is remembered to have transpired. In a later scene, a digitally drawn dragon gives a distinct visual impression, alluding to sense of fear to which Amanda speaks. Maintaining a sense of reality through CGI leads to an inclusive feeling to understand what was experienced. Therefore, the recreating of certain events attempts to share the experiences from our point-of-view, hopefully allowing the audience to experience these events the same way Amanda and I did. Using conventional and unconventional techniques such as filming 3D models, using conventional lighting, green screen and animated visuals proved to be somewhat of a challenge, but it is one I enjoyed taking on.

Reenactments:

Reenactments become a visual cornerstone of the film, using testimonial and expert interviews in direct correlation to the footage to reinforce what Amanda and I are communicating. Spence and Navarro state there are times when “... there is no cinematic record of it, the filmmaker would have to resort to a reenactment in order to represent any specific action. Reenactments can provide reliable representations of the historical world”
Reasoning for this can range from a lack of technology to not having the option to film the actual event (Spence and Navarro 215).

The reenacted event introduces a fantasmatic element that an initial representation of the same event lacks. Put simply, history does not repeat itself, except in mediated transformations such as memory, representation, reenactment, fantasy—categories that coil around each other in complex patterns (Nichols 73).

For *Project-Reformation*, all evidence exists as memories of historical events and dreams. As a result, each of the four main vignettes, including the boat, spirit of resentment and transformation sequences are represented through reenactment, in order to instill a sense of truth to the reported accounts. Furthermore, although not fully reenacted, the army sequence depicts the concept of the vision Amanda encountered while laying in our bed. Each of these scenes is intended to give credibility to the story as it is shared, and allow the audience to better understand the journey.

*Interviews/eye witness:*

Spence and Navarro disclose how eye-witness interviews are just as important (as reenactment) in documentary filmmaking (Spence and Navarro 225, 229). To have actual witnesses communicate what he or she observed possibly gives credit to the documentary and reinforces the authenticity of a reenactment. As for *Project-Reformation*, Amanda and I are the eye-witness subjects and the interviews with Robert Bray, Brian McMillian, and Dale McMillian reinforce the story with either their own accounts or experiences of an event that correlates with ours. As an example, the film opens with a voice over from the interview with Robert Brae, speaking the same words he had spoken nearly two years
before. Comparatively, Dale McMillian also shared his experience of a vision to highlight the incredibleness of that type of event.

Camera choices:

Spence and Navarro impart an interesting outlook in regards to framing: “In long shots, for instance, the camera appears to be at considerable distance from the subject and we get a general sense of the setting without privileging any particular detail. Close shots, by contrast, are likely to isolate a specific subject and assign importance to it” (189). In addition, Spence and Navarro discuss how “Camera movements can also be prompted by a sudden disclosure of relevant information or a need to draw attention to a specific detail within the frame” (192). For instance, during the hike, a close following helps to catch the emotional response from the discussion. During the spirit of resentment scene, viewing Amanda’s response to the spirit laughing reveals the indignation and sense of authority that has been bestowed to her by Holy Spirit. As opposed to the conclusion, when Amanda and I walk off on the trail signifying a journey that will continue with the up and downs of life as we ascend and descend the rocky hills. The details are in the process of movement, not us as individuals.

Sound:

Combining the use of music and sound effects with the various structural elements already mentioned aspires to fortify the overall film, bringing tension to climatic events. John Corner mentions Michael Rabiger’s Directing the Documentary in Popular Music, specifically recognizing his comments as follows:
Music should not inject false emotion.

Choice of music should give access to the inner life of a character or the subject.

Music can signal the emotional level at which the audience should investigate what is being shown (Rabiger 1998, p. 310)” (358).

Understanding Corner’s view, while exploring how the music and sound is used in this film, the question needs to be asked: Does the music lean itself to influence the audience’s emotional senses? Or does the music help to accentuate the depth of the characters? Again looking at this documentary, the introduction to the film uses not only composed music, but also special sound effects, which lends itself to the creation of this continuous journey being faced. From the opening scene, I hoped to accomplish this by utilizing the sound of musical composition layered with heavy breathing and feet pounding pavement followed by a silhouette of the subject is running. I anticipate the audience will immediately recognize a journey, possibly even a journey of preparation, as though practicing for a race or building endurance for an extended hike. In this way, using both composed music and sound effects, I worked to establish a certain expectation in the audience from the first tone. I have also purposefully placed composed music at the conclusion in order to tie in the film’s journey and path even as credits roll.

Similarly, I hoped to create a sense of awareness and/or heighten the tension for the audience through sound. As Corner states, “Musical soundtrack in scenes of acted narrative and dramatized settings, perhaps underneath dialogue, guides us in our imaginative response to a fictional world, a world that it is the rhetorical project of the film or programme to encourage us to be drawn within” (358). The music for each reenactment pushes for the acceptance of the events as they transpire giving way to a tension that is
created. Examples of this can be seen in my transformation reenactment, as well as the other vignettes. The music reinforces the sense of hope spoken through the voiceover as it is recognizing the need for a breakthrough of truth. Each composition helps to create a sense of the environment in which the scene takes place, while connecting it to each of the other reenactments.

*Title cards:*

Biblical references notated in the film are strategically placed throughout as title cards. Each verse should give the audience an understanding of how we have come to recognize and interpret the shared experiences. Joel 2:28, also referenced in Acts 2 as an indication of Holy Spirit influence, is one of the verses I have presented in order to support the presentation of dreams and visions as being from God (as identified by mainstream Christians). Locating it just before the “Army vision” scene is expected to provide evidence for this type of experience and encourage the viewer to consider these types of dreams or visions as a “natural” occurrence, especially for Christians.

*Pacing:*

The rhythm of the story is essential in documentary filmmaking. There are times where some sequences tend to have a faster pace whereas others tend to slow down. For instance, some of the reenactments tend to have a faster pace in comparison to the other sequences. The spirit of resentment is one of these examples. I chose to create a cinematic feel to this part of the story using more cutaways, which should give way to a quickened pace. Conversely, when Amanda shares the Army vision and how it affects her, she is just standing and thinking. This slows the pace down allowing for the audience to breathe and
consider along with her. Another slower pace scene would be when Amanda sits on the bench and reflects without saying a word, leading in to an authentic verbal processing as to how these events have influenced her journey of faith. Likewise, slowing down the pace at this point allows the audience to reflect and consider what has transpired in the journey so far.

In conclusion, I recognize my choices to employ close-ups, establish shots, focus shifts, music, camera movement, interviews and other structural selections influences the viewer’s perception and is carefully considered in documenting this non-fiction account.

Ethics

Having carefully considered each scene, I further recognize there are instances in media where ethical lines are crossed by the artist attempting to capture a shot without considering the risks that are involved, such as damaging the subject’s character... (Ellis 27). As I considered the interviews with others (i.e. our experts), I wanted to ensure I was not editing the bits and parts I used to take anything said out of context. An ethical consideration was taken to make certain the interviewee’s statements, although originally answers to specific questions, were utilized in a similar context as the statement was first made. Otherwise, it would misrepresent those who have trusted us with their closest held beliefs.

There are also times when the filmmaker decides to use the element of reenactment to bring to light the event that transpired in history (Spence and Navarro 215). An ethical question that should arise in the mind of a viewer is whether this is a dependable depiction of history? Given that Project-Reformation is taking an account from my own personal
experience, I have ensured everything said and done is the upmost truth as we have remembered it, in order to share these accounts as we have witnessed them. As a filmmaker, I am challenged to dramatize these experiences without exaggerating or minimizing the actual event, or the way in which it affected our journey.

Another major consideration was on whether or how to show actual miracles take place with this documentary. With reenactments introduced in the film, I did not want the audience to try to decipher between what was real and what was performance. This choice actually most influence how this part of the journey was shared, verses other experiences of supernatural interactions. For example, as the documentary is concluding, I reveal Amanda and I standing in front of and praying for a guest at the Prayer House. I wanted the audience to get an essence of Holy Spirit’s presence; however, I did not want to show a healing miracle transpire. There’s too much performance in the film and I did not want that to become a question in the mind of the audience. I wanted to ensure the audience believed they were receiving a “dependable depiction of history.”

Spence and Navarro also discuss how the camera can be used in documentary filmmaking as “It examines the way documentary makers and camera operators look at lived reality, the options they have when they point their cameras toward a particular subject, and how their view influences the spectator’s” (Spence and Navarro 188). In this way, performative sequences need to be carefully placed and created in the film to prevent the ethical dilemma of perceptional true live events. The most explicit example of this is the reenactment in which Amanda prayed out the spirit of resentment. Careful consideration was taken not to create a horror-film effect or to incite fear, rather to recreate the scene as Amanda actually remembers it to have occurred with the spirit
showing up as “almost like a reverse negative.” I worked diligently on this scene in particular because it is a historical event, not an imagined scene. It became very important for the audience to also understand that. The way the subject is framed and the type of movement the camera renders, if any, could sway the audience's opinion of the topic. These choices need to be carefully considered by the documentary filmmaker when producing a film.

Subject-Filmmaker Relationship

Building a trustworthy relationship with each of the filmed subjects is head-over-shoulders one of the top priorities in the telling of a personal story. Fortunately, the two main subjects filmed in this documentary were my wife, Amanda, and myself. While this presents a unique dynamic of director/spouse/subject, this was not the first endeavor for us to consider the issues that may arise. Having filled these roles in my previous documentary, *Supernatural Marriage*, Amanda and I have grown comfortable with the boundaries and expectations of filming such a personal production. This production in particular was in consideration for more than a year before filming began. As a couple, believing the story was powerful, unique and needed to be shared and having learned a lot from those previous experiences, we had come to an agreement of what kind of schedule we would maintain, as well as how in depth the discussions would go long before filming began. Even as the story goes, so has the development of our relationship in working toward the dynamic that made this production possible.

I also seriously considered the relationships with the others who I interviewed during the production phase. Having such a personal story to share, I limited my search
to those whom we have had a close personal relationship with, or those who we have known as leaders and teachers as we have walked this journey.

Moreover, since I am both the filmmaker and subject, I was challenged to authentically show vulnerability and reveal personal flaws. The ethical test is to tell the story truthfully and effectively, without creating a false impression either negatively or positively my wife and I experienced and responded to these events. We were constantly reviewing this priority throughout production. This type of story, that includes oneself and one's closest relationships, becomes very personal. Trusting each other becomes very important.
PRODUCTION

Overview

*Project-Reformation* production began in late November and ran until the end of January 2016. The last portion of filming occurred during the latter part of March 2016. Techniques used in this film consists of observational footage, interviews, and reenactments. I filmed at multiple locations in North, Southeast and East Texas.

Shooting Schedule

11/8/15  Grace Community Vineyard Church, Keller, Texas: Two- person crew. Amanda and I presented the work of The Holy Spirit. This recording helps to show how we are reaching out with a message.

11/14/15  Lake Worth State Park, Texas: Three-person crew for hiking; Observational style for the most part. This was the foundation of the film.

12/8/15  Brenham, Texas: Interview Beth Howey; One-person crew, sit-down discussion with the subject and interviewer sitting next to the camera. Beth was another witness as to how Holy Spirit was working in our lives.

12/9/15  Brenham, Texas: B-Roll footage, Lake Somerville, One-person crew. This footage was used to add as the background for the boat reenactment.

12/10/15  Brenham, Texas: Interview with Tom and Nancy; One-person crew. Sit-down setting. They provide an account as to how Amanda and my life together has changed. They are our mentors.

12/18/15  Little Elm, Texas: Interview with Brian McMillian and Robert Bray; Two person crew. Sit-down style recording. These subjects reinforce how Holy Spirit is at work.

12/19/15  Little Elm, Texas: Interview with Dale McMillian; One-person crew. Sit-down style recording. Dale also reinforces the perceived work of Holy Spirit.

01/12/16 – 01/14/16  Montalba, Texas: Reenactments, Two-person crew. The reenactments were filmed at this location.
01/15/16 Gladewater, Texas: Prayer House; One-person crew. Amanda and I presented the work of The Holy Spirit. This recording demonstrates how we are reaching out with a message.

01/25/16 Argyle, Texas: Running reenactment; One-person crew. This recording setups the introduction of the film.

03/19/16 Argyle, Texas: Boat Reenactment; One-person crew. Worked on recreating Holy Spirit power by the turning of the boat.

Crew

Robert Bowen – Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Sound Recordist/Editor

Robert, an International Awarding Winning Lighting Designer in Theatre, comes from the theatrical environment having already receiving a MFA in Theatrical Design. He is currently in pursuit of a second MFA in Documentary Production and Studies at the University of North Texas. He also teaches at the University of North Texas in both Media Arts and Theatre while earning his degree.

David Goodman – Cinematographer

David has worked in documentary, fiction films, commercials, music videos, and fashion. He has taught classes at The University of Memphis in the Communication Department, at The University of North Texas in the Media Arts Department, and now works as a lecturer at The University of Alabama at Huntsville in the Communication Arts Department.

Johnathon Paul – Cinematographer

Johnathan is a filmmaker based in Dallas, Texas who is pursuing an MFA degree in Documentary Production and Studies in the Media Arts Department at the University of
North Texas. His experimental film and 3D animation work has been displayed in art galleries in both the United States and Europe, while his narrative and documentary film work has also screened in various film festivals in the United States and Europe. As a director, Johnathan led production of the documentary short film *Hustler of Providence*. For his work he along with the film were nominated for several awards including the Oscar™ Qualifying Short Film award at the Rhode Island International Film Festival, 2015 IDA David L. Wolpe Student Filmmaker Award, 2015 Kodak / UFVA Filmmaker Award, as well as a nomination into the 2016 BEA Awards.

Kim Garcia – 2nd Camera Assistant/Sound Recordist

Kim is in the process of achieving an undergraduate degree at the University of North Texas in Media Arts. She has also assisted in Lighting Design and worked with NTTV on Live News in camera work, reporting, videography and editing, as well as NTTV Entertainment as a videographer on a sitcom. She has worked as a free-lance photographer, winning an academic award featured in the Photographer's Forum.

Barry Thornburg: Sound Recordist

Barry is a graphic designer, photographer and cinematographer winning awards from the American Advertising Federation, Graphic Design USA, TEECA International, and AVA Digital Awards. Currently studying at UNT for an MFA in Documentary Production and Studies.

Brian Krieger – 2nd Camera Operator
Brian spent several years as both a freelance videographer and an audio visual technician. He has shot and edited many different types of events and has been involved on the technical side of many conferences and conventions. He currently is manager of the Equipment Room for the film students at UNT, assisting them in procuring equipment they need for their video projects and offering advice and instruction regarding equipment use and shooting. Brian makes it his goal to teach students skills that he has learned so they can excel in their careers.

**Equipment**

I used a Canon 5D Mark III DSLR camera with both fixed Zeiss lens kit and Canon Zoom kit to capture the documentary in both rugged exterior and interior environments. Manfrotto tripods were used for interviews, presentations, and reenactments to aid with smoother motion and to prevent shaky footage. Revo SRG1000 Shoulder Support Rig was used during the hiking portion of the film due to the rugged nature of the environment in which we were recording. The light kit for this documentary consisted of both a Rifa 55 and Rifa 88 Softbox light kit as well as an LED Light Panel. This assisted with effective lighting in both interview and reenactments. 702 Sound Device Recorders were combined with the Senheiser Lapel Microphones and a Shotgun Microphone as the double sound recording strategy in all phases of the filming, except reenactments.

**Experience**

Overall, the production process finished on schedule and went smoothly. The hike recording would be the most challenging of all. I minimalized the equipment needs to one camera on a shoulder rig, two Seinheiser lapels for Amanda and I to wear, and a boom
microphone that was connected to a hand-held 702 Recorder. An additional microphone that came with the 702 was used for back-up recording. It was a grueling six-hour-plus hike, challenging not only David Goodman, the cinematographer, but also Barry and Kim as Sound Recordists. Even so, the footage and sound results were stellar.

Even so, we tended to run into an off-and-on pattern all day due to electronic disturbance of air waves that caused popping sounds during sound recording. In addition, we were also challenged with sounds of airplanes flying overheard along with other hikers coming and going.

While at our first speaking engagement at Grace Vineyard, I had a two-camera set-up with one of the cameras on a shoulder mount. Brian Krieger took responsibility of the camera attached to the shoulder mount, capturing the presentation from different angles. I set up the second camera as a stand-alone from the back of the room on a tripod. Sound was recorded using a 702 Recorder and two Sennheiser lapel microphones for my wife and I. Additionally, I chose to utilize a boom microphone placed next to the camera in the back of the room. Kimberly monitored both the sound and stand-alone camera. As a director and presenter, everything was preset before the presentation. The set up and break down went smoothly with Brian’s help, but the stand-alone camera shut off during recording at one point during the presentation; fortunately it was not for very long. The lapel tended to have a pop noise during the recording, but I was able to work around it in post-production.

At the Prayer House, I also had a two-camera set-up located at the back of the room. Both cameras were attached to tripods. One camera was used as a wide shot and
the other was set as a close-up. I used one Sennheiser lapel microphone for Amanda and a boom microphone on a stand next to the cameras in the back of the room.

As the only crew member at this shoot, the set-up and break-down went smoothly. Given that it was a small space, it worked better with me as the sole camera operator; but, because of the small space, the microphones were more sensitive to ambient noise than normal during recording.

During the course of the many interviews recorded, filming generally went efficiently, but there were a few issues that arose with certain segments. Each set-up took approximately thirty to forty-five minutes before recording. It was mainly a two-man operation with my wife as the interviewer and myself as the director and operator. I used a three-light set-up including two Rifa Softbox lights and one LED light panel. Two 702 Recorders were used with one recorder for the interviewees using wired lapels and the other recording for the interviewer and the boom which was placed next to the interviewer on a stand. Sound was very good overall. Visual composition, although acceptable, could have been much better with placement of the subjects in relation to the interviewer. I had the interviewer on the wrong side of the camera, which caused the interviewee to look near the edge of the frame. I also placed one of my interviewees too close to the edge of the frame. Despite these issues, I am mostly pleased with the results of the interviews.

Most of the reenactments took place in a home in East Texas with the use of conventional methods of lighting and fog to create a certain aesthetic for each scene. The use of one camera on a dolly created smooth motion. Sound was not necessary for the
scenes. I used three LED light panels with gel to create a certain mood. Fog helped to create a certain presence in the scene. I took on the director, cinematographer, and actor during this process; therefore, Kimberly assisted with the camera at different times.

The boat scene consisted of a 3-dimension boat build from a printer and initially filmed on a model green screen using lighting and a camera. The next phase consisted of filming from a bird’s eye point of view into a bucket of water with the boat turning. This was a one-man operation taking a good bit of time to effectively reenact the scene. The vision scene consisted of me running one camera to capture Amanda as she stood on top of a hill to share her experience. Holding a steady shot was the most challenging aspect of this scene. Later, Johnathon Paul attached a camera to a steady cam while running in order to capture the running scene included in the introduction of the film. This helped to create the necessary motion without the jolting movement of the camera without the stabilizer.

Budget

Crew was fellow colleagues from school and friends who voluntarily took on the responsibilities of filming, which resulted in minimal costs for crew. A meal and a couple of snacks, along with bottled water was provided for the hiking crew. Another meal was purchased for Brian who filmed at Vineyard of Grace. In considering extended-stay locations, family and friends hosted Amanda and I which eliminated hotels and some food costs since no other crew member traveled to these locations. The use of film and production equipment from the university prevented additional costs, such as camera and sound rental fees. Other than the food mentioned above, the only other cost of filming was
for gas to the various locations, such as Brenham, Montalba, and Little Elm, TX; and since gas prices had dropped significantly in the weeks prior to filming, the total cost was approximately four-hundred dollars. Project Reformation’s preliminary budget can be found on pg 73 in the appendix.
POST-PRODUCTION

Equipment
The use of Adobe Premiere was used to edit the film. I used Adobe After-Effects to finesse the reenactments, such as blending layers and animating an artistic drawing. I incorporated double system recording using Red Giant’s software, Plural Eyes, to sync up the video with the audio footage. I also used a Zoom H6 Recorder to record voice-over during the editing process for narrative sequences.

Schedule

02/01/2015 – 02/29/2016 – Footage Logged, Reviewed, and Transcribed
03/01/2016 – 03/14/2016 – Sequences of footage created
03/15/2016 – 03/29/2016 – Edit
03/30/2016 – 1st Rough Cut
04/01/2016 - 04/06/2016 – Edit
04/07/2016 – 2nd Rough Cut Screened at Colloquium
04/11/2016 - 4/21/2016 – Edit
04/21/2016 – 3rd Rough Cut
04/22/2016 – 5/24/2016 – Edit
05/25/2016 – Final Cut
RECONCEPTUALIZATION DURING POST-PRODUCTION

As with any project, the reality of production demands sometimes changes the original concept. When the post-production phase began for Project-Reformation, some decisions had to be made right away. Because I also had a plan for a feature length documentary, I completed multiple interviews that covered more experiences than what would fill a thirty-minute documentary. Therefore, as I considered the depth of the message I wanted to share in the shortened version, some of the interviews were not utilized immediately. I also decided to use fewer of the interviews than originally planned due to the unexpectedly powerful testimony shared by the main subjects such as Beth Howey and the Moser’s.

Sound was another area that required a re-conceptualization. Initially, I wanted to have a music composer work on this project, but no one responded to my request. Therefore, I decided to purchase stock footage with the aim of importing sound that would coincide with the message of the film. Happily, this gave me greater flexibility in deciding what emotion I wanted to put into this film through the use of sound.

Some changes were made in direct response to recommendations made by the thesis committee after an initial review of the first rough draft. One was to make the interviews sound less like experts and more like reinforcements of points already being made. According to the first rough draft, the original arrangement pulled the audience away from storyline in a jarring fashion. I have attempted to do this by placing the interview footage further back in the film and smoothing out the transitions. A second suggestion was to add voice-over to the verse title cards and alternating Amanda and
my voices for each verse. The hope is this would add a deeper element with the continuance of us telling the story. Therefore, I chose to complete the voiceover for the title cards, but leave out the vocalization of the verse reference so as to eliminate a sense of response reading. In addition, the decision to add narration to certain segments of the film became essential in order to eliminate confusion and clarify identity and purpose. Finally, another modification made after the first draft was viewed focused on the conclusion of the film. My original idea of rolling credits with Amanda and I in action, ministering, seemed adequate. However, it was pointed out the scene did not include Amanda and I together. In addition, the scene did not conclude the “natural” setting from which most of the film had been shot. Moreover, the concern was that the focus on ministering would draw attention to those who were being prayed over instead of the action itself. Therefore, I realized the importance of concluding the documentary with the two of us in the natural landscape alone, which hopefully would bring everything together in the end.
EVALUATION OF COMPLETED WORK

Pre-production

Overall, the process of pre-production was thoroughly planned out resulting with only minor changes throughout all three phases of the production process. After reviewing the treatment, I soon realized that my estimated desire time of twenty-five to thirty minutes would not allow for all of the story to be shared. Therefore, cutting back to the fundamental points of the story was essential. With schedules in place and locations approved for filming, I felt confident that our team could step into any scenario and be prepared when it comes to filmmaking.

Production

As mentioned earlier, few adjustments were necessary once beginning the production phase of Project-Reformation. Specifically, a quick tutorial for the use of the 702 Sound Recorder was in order for my recordists to capture the most effective sound. They were alert and ready when issues surfaced in the course of production, such as interference during hiking and the presentations.

Conversely, as I completed the interviews, I began to realize I could have improved on the composition of the shots. I set up the interviews with the subjects sitting near the edge of the frame. In addition, I also placed my interviewer on the same side, closest to the edge of the frame, resulting with one side of the frame weighing heavy. This could have been avoided with a more detailed description of framing during the planning phase. Despite this mishap, this phase of production went through smoothly and schedules for the different film dates stayed close to the original plan.
Post-Production

Once entering into post-production, I felt confident that I had everything I needed to put together the documentary; no extra filming would be necessary. This was certainly the case. Editing the film was a smooth process as expected from the beginning phases of production. Using stock video and audio footage strengthened the storyline that was conveyed. Taking certain frames into After-Effects and blending layers together strengthened the overall look and aesthetic of the sequences. In fact, the schedule for completion was ahead-of-date due to the thorough preparation in the beginning of this documentary process.

In summary, the initial concept of this production truly began about four years ago, as my marriage was being restored. In the course of our reconciliation, I suggested to my wife that we would one day film and produce a testimony of what had been accomplished. My first documentary, Supernatural Marriage, was an attempt to do that. However, in completing that documentary short, I realized there was more to our story that needed to be shared than just the focus on marriage. As a result, almost immediately after the premiere of that first documentary, I began to develop a conceptualization for a full-length, or more extended production. But, before I could finish this story, there was “unfinished business” with my daughter, which led to the production of Life-Altering, a message of reconciliation and forgiveness. My expectation was to ensure my testimony was true in every aspect of my life. These stories are what I call “God-stories;” In other words, a considerization of how God interacts and intercedes on behalf of His people, interacting with them to lead and guide toward the fulfillment of His plan. In conclusion, I have developed this third production in response to guidance
from the Lord God through Holy Spirit.

In working through these other two productions, a theme has worked itself out, creating almost a trilogy effect, focusing on marital restoration, family reconciliation and church reformation. As a person, I have utilized these productions to challenge and confront myself to create an honest and true representation of the growth and benefit that comes from following the leading of Holy Spirit. As with any goal, you begin to realize the prize is worth the cost, only magnified exponentially, by the potential to positively impact others’ relationships, homes and families. This has become a personal mission for both myself and my wife.

Technically, I have grown as a filmmaker as well. The process of filming such a personal story has changed as I have created multiple productions and grown to trust my fellow colleagues within the program. For instance, my first-year documentary was filmed independently, almost privately. While I obviously had to learn how to balance the roles of both director and subject, the greater challenge was finding a voice for my personal convictions that was compelling, rather than condemning. In addition, great consideration was also given as to who I would trust in filming the portions that required assistance, because I was unsure what part of my personal life would be exposed in the process. As I began to prepare for the second-year production, *Life-Altering*, I was somewhat anxious about the film crew. This film explores the process of rebuilding a father-daughter relationship from a broken and cut-off standpoint, and was probably the most personal and heartaching story I have produced. Again, due to the self-critical approach, I wanted to ensure a basic level of confidentiality and trust from each crew member. As the roles were assigned, I approached each of my crew members with my
expectations in order to develop an understanding before filming began. Needless to say, it was a personal challenge to hand-over the various aspects of production to others. As I entered into the third-year, I chose to step back during the majority of the documentary and allow my crew to document the events, such as hiking and the speaking engagements. Going through the crucible of Life-Altering, I was better prepared to take such a hands-off approach. I did act as a one-man crew for the reenactments and interviews; however, it was more for the sake of the budget than a concern for privacy or trust. I have learned how to trust the process of creating and developing even the most personal production. When sharing self-critical and very personal stories, a basic understanding and trust must be developed with anyone on set, meaning all members of the crew. I have also realized how this third production brings everything that was mentioned before together and shows this “ministry” we are entering into.

As a filmmaker, both now and in the future, I hope to continue to be inspired by Holy Spirit to reveal truth through documenting actual events in order to share with other the importance of not only believing, but also acting upon one's beliefs. Our future is promising. My wife and I will work together as a team, being led by the Spirit and guided by His will in both provision and direction. We will film the reformation of the church body allowing for this footage to be a visual testimony for others to see the truth that is promised.
APPENDIX

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS
# Project Reformation Budget

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Interview Question List for *Project Reformation*

*Questions for Beth:*

1. Introduce yourself.
2. How do you know Robert & Amanda?
3. Tell me how the Holy Spirit spoke to you?
4. Any other insights you want to share and document now?

*Questions for Brian:*

1. Introduce yourself, what is your calling?
2. How do you know Robert & Amanda and how would you describe your calling?
3. Can you tell us about your experience in ministry (specifically children's)?
4. How has that worked itself out with Robert & Amanda?
5. Have you received and given any confirmations of what Robert & Amanda are doing?
6. Tell me about Holy Spirit in the world today.
7. Any other insights you want to share and document now?

*Questions for Dale:*

1. What is your name and who are you? What is your profession?
2. How do you know Robert & Amanda?
3. Have you received and given any confirmations of what Robert & Amanda are
doing?

4. Tell me about Holy Spirit in the world today.

5. Any other insights you want to share and document now?

Questions for Robert:

1. Introduce yourself, what is your calling?

2. How would you describe your calling?

3. How do you know Robert & Amanda Bowen?

4. Have you received and given any confirmations of what Robert & Amanda are doing? What can you remember?
   A. Four chapters
   B. Dry bones

5. Tell me about Holy Spirit in the world today.

6. Any other insights you want to share/document now?

Questions for Tom and Nancy:

1. Introduce yourselves.

2. How do you know Robert & Amanda?

3. Tell me how the Holy Spirit spoke to you?

4. Any other insights you want to share and document now?
PERSONAL APPEARANCE RELEASE FORM

For a Documentary “Program” Tentatively Titled: “Project Reformation”

I hereby authorize Robert Bowen, graduate student in The Media Arts program at The University of North Texas, and the producer of the documentary tentatively titled “Project Reformation,” to record and edit into the Program and related materials my name, likeness, image, voice and participation in and performance on film, tape or otherwise for use in the above Program or parts thereof (the “Recordings”). I agree that the Program may be edited and otherwise altered at the sole discretion of the Producer and used in whole or in part for any and all broadcasting, non-broadcasting, audio/visual, and/or exhibition purposes in any manner or media, in perpetuity, throughout the world.

Producer, Robert Bowen, may use and authorize others to use all or parts of the Recordings. Producer, Robert Bowen, its successors and assigns shall own all right, title and interest, including copyright, in and to the Program, including the Recordings, to be used and disposed of without limitation as Producer shall in its sole discretion determine.

Printed Name of Person Appearing:

________________________________________

Signature of Person Appearing: ________________________________

Address: __________________________________________City, State, Zip: __________________

Email: ________________________________________________

Date: ________________________________ Phone: __________________
REFERENCES


