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Christian Controversy Arises about the New Documentary Film "Jesus in India"

San Francisco, CA (April 1, 2009) -- Just released is the DVD of the most controversial film ever to play on Sundance Channel, *"Jesus in India,"* provoking one critic to declare, *"This is a feature documentary sure to make Bill O'Reilly choke on his eggnog."*

Producer/director of the film, Paul Davids, is a prolific filmmaker known for several first-run documentaries and movies, including *The Sci-Fi Boys*, from Universal Pictures, winner of Hollywood's Saturn Award for Best DVD of 2006.

Chosen as a TV Highlight by the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*, the film is praised by renowned critic Pete Hammond as *"fascinating and profound, a deeply spiritual journey certain to make you think and question in ways you never have before."* Yogananda's Self-Realization Fellowship is calling it a groundbreaking film, while *Atlantis Rising* magazine says: *"This film....has the potential to revolutionize Christianity by virtue of the humanization of Jesus."*

"Jesus in India" explores the mystery of Jesus' whereabouts between the ages of 12 and 30, a period known as the "Hidden Years" or "Lost Years." The New Testament offers only one vague sentence relating to those 18 missing years. Leading the film's investigation across 4,000 miles of India and beyond was Edward T. Martin, author of two books on the subject: *Jesus in India: King of Wisdom -- The Making of the Film and New Findings on Jesus' Lost Years* and *King of Travelers: Jesus' Lost Years in India*.

Raised in the fundamentalist Church of Christ in Lampasas, Texas, Martin became disillusioned with orthodox Christianity while working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Afghanistan. There he had his first encounter with East Asian accounts of the historic Jesus Christ, including the story that young Jesus joined a caravan and took the Silk Road to the East, where he lived in India with both Hindus and Buddhists before returning to the Holy Land to begin his ministry.

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“Jesus in India” has sparked intense debate around the world, as viewers, like the film itself, attempt to sort legend from history. Objections from mainstream Christians have been balanced by the interviews and comments in the film from respected theologians and religious authorities of the world’s major faiths, from the Dalai Lama to professors of religion at major universities, Vatican authorities, the head of the Hindu religion and others.

Available to the media are review copies of the DVD “Jesus in India” and the new book, *Jesus in India: King of Wisdom -- The Making of the Film and New Findings on Jesus’ Lost Years* as well as the CD of composer Brian Lambert’s complete music soundtrack of the film.

Watch the trailer of “Jesus of India,” hear selections of music from the soundtrack, and get more information about the movie at **www.jesus-in-india-the-movie.com**. (A Presentation of Paul Davids Productions, Inc. and Yellow Hat Productions, Inc., Distributed to Television worldwide by NBC-Universal)

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“Jesus in India” DVD: a 97 minute feature plus 80 minutes of bonus features including: Author Edward T. Martin on “The Cutting Edge” TV show, the Film Forecast Seminar with the filmmaking team, Q&A session from theatrical premiere of “Jesus in India” at the Camelot Theater of Palm Springs, extended interview with author / professor Elaine Pagels of Princeton University’s Department of Religion, Paul Davids talks about his past films, slide show to the soundtrack music showing the production in India. \$24.95 Available at www.jesus-in-india-the-movie.com and from New Leaf Distributing Company. Music soundtrack album also available on CD (\$16.95)

2 books (each \$19.95) Published by Yellow Hat Publishing, 5190 Neil Road #430, Reno, NV 89502 Available at www.jesus-in-india-the-movie.com and from New Leaf Distributing Company:

Jesus in India: King of Wisdom – The Making of the Film & New Findings on Jesus’ Lost Years: A 250-page book by Edward T. Martin with many photos dealing with the remarkable adventures of the film crew in India while making the motion picture, plus what was learned that wasn’t known before about Jesus’ lost years. How did the film crew accomplish interviews with the Shankaracharya (the “Pope” of Hinduism) and a Vatican official as well as major scholars and the Dalai Lama? How were they protected from danger?

King of Travelers: Jesus’ Lost Years in India A 200-page book by Edward T. Martin with many photos - the book that inspired the motion picture “Jesus in India.” The story of how a boy raised as a fundamentalist Christian in a small Texas town became the outcast of his town as he pursued his theory that Jesus’ missing years were spent in India. An English teacher and mountain-climber goes Asia to seek answers.