

## **Bible Alive Theater School of Ministry (BATSM)**

A ministry of Green Ridge Ministries (a 501-C3 non-profit corporation)

The American culture is a culture of entertainment. As Christians in ministry we should understand the culture and use entertainment as a way to reach people for Jesus Christ. We have caught this vision, and God has given us this challenge, to 'present the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Bible Alive Theater'. The name says it all, the Bible put to music and presented through musical theater, adding the element of sight and sound to the inerrant Word of God.

The School of Ministry seeks to present our musicals in a secular setting that supports cross-denominational unity, though practices and classes can be held at church facilities. The number of performances and frequency of those performances should be constant through each season, but may be as few as two performances per year. We want to encourage Christian artists, technicians and performers to use their God given talents to worship and honor God, and lead others to do likewise.

We offer training as a school of ministry in all aspects of theater and ministry, starting with the script writing and ending with a live performance. We will accept only musicals that faithfully portray a biblical story. It is our intent to use as much Bible, word for word, as possible in every story that is accepted for performance at Bible Alive Theater. Although we realize that the stories may only be covered in one chapter of the Bible, we encourage our members to use the whole of the Bible to support the story, incorporating those truths that continue the story line in a way that limits artistic license. We try to time each musical to range from 45 minutes to not more than 90 minutes.

Because we believe the God of the Bible: Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one, we look at the God of the Old Testament as the same God of the New Testament and the blood sacrifice as a foreshadow of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We believe every story in the Old Testament is tied to the New Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ, namely that Jesus (God) came to earth, was born of a virgin, preached repentance of sin, died to pay the price for that sin, offering forgiveness through his shed blood. He rose from the dead on the third day, ascended into heaven, and offers new and everlasting life to all who believe, receive His salvation and follow him. The message that we can have a loving relationship with this living God is essential to each play. This message must be presented in each musical. Following each performance an invitation will be extended to the audience to believe in and follow Jesus, as Savior and Lord, accepting forgiveness and the gift of life in him.

We define ministry as God centered, people focused service. Bible study in the form of a 10 to 15 minute devotion, with focus on the current play subject, and prayer for the production and needs of the cast and crew will be offered up at every rehearsal and gathering of Bible Alive Theater. We try to have a fellowship meal together at each cast party and at scheduled meetings.

An inter-active dinner theater fundraiser may be offered opening night, to off-set costs of the free performances. Ticket prices are to be determined at the beginning of the season. All subsequent performances will be free, with a donation box available to the audience after the performances to help with the costs of production. Show sponsorships may also be obtained. We offer opportunities to Christian artists to perform different genres of gospel music in a 15 minute pre-show before each free performance, usually BATSM members. Dinner theater pre-show performances should be: cast interactive, relating to the play, with a biblical theme, and not more than 15 minutes long.