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## Journey of Faith: The New World Screened in Hawaii

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## *Journey of Faith: The New World* Screened in Hawaii

On November 9, 2007, the new Willes Center-sponsored DVD, *Journey of Faith: The New World*, was shown to a large audience in the IMAX Theater of the Polynesian Cultural Center in Laie, Hawaii, adjacent to the campus of BYU–Hawaii. The screening was offered in connection with a three-day international business conference cosponsored by the University. The founder of the Laura F. Willes Center for Book of Mormon Studies, Mark H. Willes, opened the screening by explaining how the film came about, its significance as a study aid to help all better understand the cultural and geographical setting of events leading up to the Savior’s visit in the New World, and also the anticipated impact of similar projects on students of “The Lord’s Book.”

## Documentary on Life of Christ


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prophets and apostles, will offer to Latter-day Saints, particularly college-age individuals, a more complete picture of the Savior, his times, and his notable achievements.

In 1999, Brown gathered together a blue-ribbon panel of BYU scholars whose combined efforts produced a ninety-page basic document that, since then, has guided students, faculty members, and filmmakers who have worked on the project. As is customary, the basic document and the film script that rests on it have undergone several rigorous reviews that have refined and improved the information that will appear in the final film.

As background, groups and individuals within the academic world are looking critically at Jesus as a historical figure. Many question the validity of the gospel accounts based on inconsistencies—between the gospels themselves, between the Bible and other historical documents, and between the apostles’ stories and what is thought to be “known” of the culture. They are constructing a revised history of Christianity based on modern notions of ethnography, social science, etc. Although no consensus view exists among so many scholars, the general leaning is similar, in that it moves away from the divine or

The screening was followed by a question-and-answer session conducted by Peter Johnson, the film’s director, and Andrew Skinner, executive director of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, which is the administrative home of the Willes Center. “Projects of this kind, which illustrate the profundity and truth of the Book of Mormon are the very things the Willes Center was created to support,” said Professor Skinner, “and we anticipate many more in the coming years.”

The Laura F. Willes Center for Book of Mormon Studies awards faculty scholarships to encourage important research on the Book of Mormon. Some awards include support for research on the BYU campus, but an awardee can pursue research from any locale as long as the topic relates to the Book of Mormon. Please go to our Web site at [willescenter.byu.edu](http://willescenter.byu.edu) for more information. 

miraculous. In their broad view, Jesus was a charismatic leader, a traditional mystic, a wise philosopher, or (perhaps most popularly at the moment) a social critic and an instigator. In this perspective, his followers were zealots, biased and inaccurate in their writing, and their collective enthusiasm produced the visions attributed to a resurrection. Significantly, according to this view, the persistence of the Savior’s reputation and following is largely inexplicable.

The project *Messiah: Behold the Lamb of God* will also include a Web site where the resources used in the television broadcast (the standard works, statements of modern prophets and apostles, and historical records) can be accessed to allow viewers to explore further beliefs and doctrines about Jesus Christ.

The seven parts will include: Premortal Savior, Birth, Authority, Ministry, Death, Resurrection, Apostasy and Restoration. 