

## 500 Years Later, the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther Inspire Millions Worldwide

October 31, 1517, is a day considered by many historians as one of the top ten days in human history. It was this distinct day that Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. With this action, he sparked the Protestant Reformation, a movement that would forever change the world – politically, geographically, and spiritually. As the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this momentous day approaches, Christians across the globe are looking back on Martin Luther’s life and legacy as they draw inspiration for the future.

The past and present of the Protestant Church intersect at The Wittenberg 2017 Congress, a three-day summit which will bring Christian leaders from over 60 nations to Berlin and Wittenberg, Germany. Participants of The Wittenberg 2017 Congress will hear from world-class speakers and discuss how the Church can synergize its efforts worldwide to achieve exponential growth in the years ahead.

Dr. James O. Davis, founder and president of the Global Church Network, said he began planning the Congress when he realized that, as a whole, the Church had no plans to gather together for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Protestant Reformation.

“Many Christians don’t fully understand this history,” said Dr. James O. Davis. “For awhile, I’d thought there was a real need for an outstanding film about the life of Martin Luther, but I hadn’t come across anything powerful until I watched *A Return to Grace: Martin Luther’s Life and Legacy*.”

Dr. Davis decided immediately that he wanted to form a synergistic partnership between The Wittenberg 2017 Congress and this landmark film. He contacted producers Michael Trinklein and Steven Boettcher– and they were equally excited about the idea.

“The film looks back at the beginnings of our Protestant heritage – while the Church must look forward in fulfilling the Great Commission,” said Boettcher. “The Congress stands at the junction of the two: appreciating where we came from, and charting a course for the future.”

Producers Michael Trinklein and Steven Boettcher began production on *A Return to Grace: Martin Luther’s Life and Legacy* four years ago – but they say, in a sense, they’ve been working on the project all their lives.

“Martin Luther wrestled with the basic questions that all people must ask: ‘Who am I?’ ‘What is my purpose?’ and ‘How do I get right with God?’” said Trinklein. “He found those answers in the Bible, and we all benefit from that legacy.”

By bringing Luther’s story to life, the film can help Christians connect more deeply with the roots of their faith. But all people can recognize the angst Luther felt and consider the fundamental questions he sought to answer – regardless of their background. The film

premiered September 12, 2017, on PBS, and has been praised within the Church and by secular reviewers.

The partnership between the film's producers and The Wittenberg 2017 Congress will serve as a launching point to bring the film to more audiences. A streamlined process will allow church leaders to easily bring the film to their communities through DVDs, group screenings, and Bible studies.

"We want everyone to be aware of this phenomenal film," said Dr. Davis. "*A Return to Grace* goes beyond just recounting the events of Luther's life; it truly shows the greatness of this man and the impact of his visionary leadership."

More information about The Wittenberg 2017 Congress is available at Luther2017.tv. To host a screening of *A Return to Grace: Martin Luther's Life and Legacy*, or learn more, visit [newluthermovie.com](http://newluthermovie.com).

Digital Press Kit with video, images, and additional information: <http://pr.cirlot.com/500-years-later-the-life-and-legacy-of-martin-luther-inspire-millions-worldwide/>