



# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***Inspired By... The Bible Experience* Wins Audiobook of the Year**

*Pioneering Audio Bible Production Wins Top Honors at Prestigious Audies®*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., June 4, 2007** – The most ambitious and bestselling audio presentation of the Bible ever produced, *Inspired By... The Bible Experience* (New Testament), has been named Audiobook of the Year, the most prestigious award for excellence in audiobooks, by the Audio Publishers Association (APA).

The award recognizes the audiobook that made the greatest impact on the audio publishing industry. To date, the New Testament edition of *Inspired By... The Bible Experience* has sold more than 300,000 units in eight months to become Zondervan's fastest-selling new Bible, outselling perennial bestsellers. The combination of the product's original score, theatrical production, world-class talent and use of the most accessible Bible translation, the TNIV (Today's New International Version), also earned *Inspired By... The Bible Experience* a second *Audie* in the Inspirational/Spiritual category. The winners were announced during the *Audies* ceremony on Friday, June 1, in New York City.

"This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of a large team of people, from the *Inspired By* producers to the talented cast and the entire team at Zondervan who brought the product to market," said Paul Caminiti, vice president and publisher of Bibles for Zondervan. "Our goal with any of our products is to meet people's spiritual needs, not to win awards, but we are extremely honored and humbled to receive this recognition and are excited to see how God is using this innovative product to engage more people in the Bible."

Finalists in 31 categories were considered for the 2007 *Audies* and were chosen based on content, production quality, packaging and narration. More than 800 entries were submitted for consideration in 2007.

The *Audies* judges shared the following comments regarding *Inspired By... The Bible Experience*: "*The Bible Experience* is a tribute to innovative marketing. Packing it with an impressive cast of over 200 prominent African Americans, Zondervan didn't stop at letting the talent attract listeners. They conducted a church-driven awareness program, utilized MySpace as a promotional vehicle and received a wealth of positive press for this superb production."

*Inspired By... The Bible Experience* (New Testament) features the voice talent of more than 200 African-American actors, musicians and religious leaders. Notable personalities include Blair Underwood, Angela Bassett, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Samuel L. Jackson. In addition to dramatic performances of the entire New Testament text by leading artists and celebrities, the product also features Hollywood-style sound design and effects and an original musical underscore featuring performances by the Prague Symphony Orchestra.



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"Dozens of people poured their hearts, souls and an unbelievable amount of time into producing *The Bible Experience*, and we're privileged to receive what is considered the Oscar of audio production," said Ron Belk, executive producer, Inspired By Media Group. "The theatrical-quality score and talent involved will set *The Bible Experience* apart from every other audio Bible for a generation. The cast and crew earned this honor, and we deeply appreciate their time and talent."

*Inspired By... The Bible Experience* (New Testament) is available in stores nationwide, with the Old Testament and a complete Bible edition featuring an expanded cast scheduled for release in fall 2007.

*Inspired By... The Bible Experience* is available in CD and MP3 formats as well as audio download. A behind-the-scenes "making of" video, audio samples, news and reviews can be found at [www.zondervan.com/BibleExperience](http://www.zondervan.com/BibleExperience).

## **About Inspired By Media Group**

Branded by its signature banner *Inspired By...*, Inspired By Media Group, Inc. is committed to serving the faith-based and general markets by creating family-oriented products that are culturally relevant in scope. With more than a combined 40 years in the convergent areas of music, television, film, theater, literature, new media and technology, the company is an industry leader in delivering contemporary multimedia products. Visit Inspired By Media Group on the Web at [www.inspiredby.com](http://www.inspiredby.com).

## **About Zondervan**

Zondervan, a division of HarperCollins *Publishers*, is the world's leading Bible publisher. With a vision to see more people engaging the Bible more, Zondervan offers bestselling study, devotional, reference, text and audio Bibles designed for every age and stage of life. Zondervan holds exclusive North American publishing rights to the New International Version (NIV), the most popular modern English translation of the Bible with more than 220 million copies in print worldwide. In addition to Bibles, Zondervan has been publishing bestselling books, curriculum, children's and new media products for the past 75 years.

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