



**CALLED
HIGHER
STUDIOS**

Christian Movie Executives

Jason Brown and Ash Greyson Innovate to Revolutionize the Film Industry by Starting First Fan-Owned Faith-Based Studio

FRANKLIN, Tenn., Aug. 4, 2020 /Christian Newswire/ -- As the movie industry grapples with the impact of COVID-19 and the continued unrest rippling across the country, a new Franklin, Tenn., film studio, Called Higher Studios, is revolutionizing faith-based movie making by becoming the world's first fan-owned faith-based movie studio. For the first time in history, fans now have a voice in the making of faith and family films that spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through world-class storytelling. Christian Movie Executives, and Studio Co-Founders, Jason Brown and Ash Greyson, launched the new venture in 2019, and by April 2020 had closed on an offering that raised one million dollars in capital from more than 3,700 investments to fund the studio's operations. Called Higher Studios' first production slate includes "The Grace of Christ," a new period film with the screenplay, based on the crucifixion, written by Brian Baugh, director of "I'm Not Ashamed," the acclaimed Christian film based on the Columbine High School Shootings. The studio plans to start production on their new films in 2021.

"It's been amazing to see our production community and our fan-investors grow. We're humbled that there are other Christians out there who wanted to lock arms and join in our mission of spreading the name of Jesus through film and television," said Jason Brown, chief executive officer of Called Higher Studios, Inc. The fundraising drive to launch Called Higher Studios took advantage of new equity crowdfunding laws that were



Jason Brown

Ash Greyson

initiated in 2016, allowing fans to own equity in companies that filed under certain crowdfunding regulations with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Unlike traditional crowdfunding, this campaign was not focused on making a donation to a cause or a special project. Instead, investors bought stock in the company and became owners alongside the studio co-founders and other investors, having the ability to share in the potential profits of the studio and all of their films. The studio's executive team will be running day-to-day operations, assemble a world-class team of writers, producers, actors, marketers, and industry professionals to support fan vision, and together with investor input, make world-class content. As investors, the fans will get the opportunity to experience movie making up close and personal as they help in developing movies, weigh in on projects, help to choose actors and even potentially be in the films. Called Higher Studios is also doing more than just making faith-based movies and content; they are engaging with non-profits, charities, and NGOs to make a difference in outcomes and situations that seem desperate. They have committed to be "Called Higher," and one of their core objectives is to do good work in part-

nership with and on behalf of these organizations. These are a few of the charities the studio has supported financially:

- Reboot Combat Recovery: REBOOT Recovery exists to help veterans, first responders and their families heal from the moral and spiritual wounds associated with service-related trauma.
- The Joseph School in Haiti: The Joseph School educates and empowers Haitian children to become the next servant leaders of their country.
- Josiah's House: For 9 years, Josiah's House has been a family style Children's home for boys and girls in the Dominican Republic. Their mission is to give each child the love and security of a Christ-centered family and teach them values founded on the word of God.

Currently based in Franklin, Tenn., Called Higher Studios has a long-range vision to build a full studio complex in the area. To learn more about Called Higher Studios: Facebook: @CalledHigherStudios Twitter: @HigherCalled Instagram: @CalledHigherStudios YouTube: @CalledHigherStudios Website: CalledHigherStudios.com +++



Chief Justice John Roberts is So Incompetent He Can't Even Protect Religious Freedom

By TONY PERKINS

If there's one thing Americans have learned from the Supreme Court in 2020, it's this: there are no guarantees. Even now, after a slew of bad decisions, conservatives wanted to believe that when it comes to religious liberty, even Chief Justice John Roberts couldn't get that wrong. Well, think again. When it comes to siding with the Constitution, even Vegas will tell you — don't bet on Roberts.

Even by the Left's estimation, Friday's case was cut and dried. When Nevada's governor, Steve Sisolak (D) decided to open casinos to thousands of people — but cap church attendance at 50 — the lawsuit almost wrote itself. As far as First Amendment violations go, experts thought, this was textbook. "Not only is this disparate treatment," Senator Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) argued on "Washington Watch," but "the Constitution of the United States gives churches and the right to worship a special status." So, imagine everyone's surprise — including the liberal media's — when this case was fast-tracked to the Supreme Court for emergency action, and the liberal majority refused to intervene!

To the absolute astonishment of everyone, Roberts and the other liberal justices decided that casinos should have more freedom to operate than the houses of worship legally protected by the Constitution. "It's quite remarkable," Alliance Defending Freedom's David Cortman said. And the other four justices agreed. In a pair of biting dissents, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch, tried to understand how anyone — let alone five mem-

bers of the U.S. Supreme Court — could justify the "right" to play craps over the free exercise of religion.

"The world we inhabit today, with a pandemic upon us, poses unusual challenges," Gorsuch agreed. "But there is no world in which the Constitution permits Nevada to favor Caesars Palace over Calvary Chapel." The Constitution, Alito piled on, "says nothing about the freedom to play... blackjack, to feed tokens into a slot machine, or to engage in any other game of chance." And while we're on the subject of the pandemic, he wonders, how does the court square the risks of a casino, packed with "thousands of patrons," eating, drinking, and "far less physical distancing," with a church that has strict safety measures in place? It's obvious why Nevada would prioritize casinos, since over a third of the state's revenue comes from gambling. But from a pure health perspective, it makes no sense. And even less, Hawley pointed out, from a legal one.

"[We are in] big trouble," he said. "Big trouble." "I mean, it's bad enough that churches in Nevada and elsewhere are being treated as second-class institutions... worse than liquor stores or gambling halls or casinos or what-ever else. That's bad enough... But this decision on Friday, this is antithetical to the rule of law. [It's] dangerous." It's also, he believes, "quite significant that the majority was silent. They didn't write [an opinion]." Maybe, he said, because it's unjustifiable. But either way, Hawley shook his head, "I'd love to see them try to explain this outrageous decision."

And he's not the only one. Outlets from Vox to National Review scratched their collective heads at how the court could get this so wrong. At the Wall Street Journal, the editors wondered what happened to the reliable SCOTUS on religious freedom? "[D]uring the pandemic, it has been missing in action." Even liberal reporters thought the case was a slam dunk and struggled to explain how Nevada's churches could bring such "an unusually strong challenge" to the governor and "los[e] anyway." What are Americans supposed to do when the deck is so obviously stacked against them? "We've got elected officials in some states who are disregarding the laws of probably their state and certainly of the United States Constitution. And we have the United States Supreme Court that thinks that it's a super legislature, [making] up the law as it goes along..." Hawley argued. What the justices did, he said, "is even worse than taking a pass." They endorsed discrimination — plain and simple. And while he's asked the Justice Department to open a civil rights investigation in these states, "We should not lose sight of the fact that the Supreme Court is falling down on its constitutional responsibilities here... The imperial judiciary lives," he warned. "...And this Supreme Court is as imperial a court as we have ever had."

Americans have been dealt a bad hand from the Supreme Court in 2020. But rolling the dice with our First Freedom? That's something no one can excuse. +++

JESUS IS LORD.

Religious Freedom Advocacy Group Seeking to Raise Awareness About Global Christian Persecution

LONG BEACH, Calif., July 17, 2020 /Christian Newswire/ -- The number of Christians persecuted for their faith has risen 20% in just two years. Currently, there are over 260 million people across the globe who face high levels of perse-

cution because of their faith in Christ. Shockingly, the growing crisis of Christian Persecution is widely ignored by the media and often overlooked within faith communities of the West. For this reason, March for the Martyrs will be

held on Saturday, September 5th, 2020 in Long Beach, California. The purpose of this demonstration is to stand in solidarity with the persecuted Christians and bring media attention to the crisis of Christian persecution. March for the Martyrs is sending a clear message: Christian Persecution will not be ignored, suffering believers are not forgotten, and Jesus Christ still has the victory. www.forthemartyrs.com

MARCH FOR THE MARTYRS

Stand in solidarity with the persecuted Christians around the world.

September 5th Long Beach, CA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Sean Feucht

Father Benedict Kleiy

Juliana Taimoorazy

Imam "Of Peace" Tawhid

Gla Chacon

Dr. Michelle Corral