



January 2023

Your Story for God's Glory



Pastor Andrew Hamlet, FedCov Church, Dowagiac, MI

If you're like me, over the last couple years we've had a lot more time for self-reflection. For me it began with a job layoff in 2018, after which I went an entire year without a steady job. In 2019 I found a job only to lose it six months later to the pandemic. There was another eight months without a job. Then a year and half later I had an injury that would render me useless for the new job I had. Before these years I spent over a decade in the same job. Sporadic work was not something I was used to, nor comfortable with.

After each loss of a job, I would begin to peel-back layers. Layers of fear, doubt, and insecurities I didn't even know I had. The further I looked into the mirror the less I knew the man staring back at me. He wasn't a stranger per-say, but not as solid as I thought either.

It didn't help that I turned forty during the 2020 pandemic. A mid-life crisis and a pandemic, what a great mix. I started to ask myself some hard questions in the spring of 2020. I had always been creative, a great story teller. If you needed a story idea, I had twenty, but few projects had moved

forward. They were good ideas but none of them had legs, or moved forward any further than in my mind.

I began to wonder if these stories would go to my grave with me. I began to ask myself why I truly hadn't done anything with this gift. In the midst of this inner battle God brought the story of the talents up during my wife and my devotional time we have every night. (Matthew 25:14-30)

The words struck like an arrow right down to my heart. What if I'm the guy with the talent who buried it. Would I let fear, doubt, and insecurities keep this gift that God had entrusted me with to be buried? The thought was so uncomfortable I discarded it quickly. The next week I was set to help at a writing conference. The same passage was the topic of a main session speaker. It took everything I had to not start crying. I was caught, convicted.

I knew I needed to step out. If no one would make my stories I would make them myself. I used the pandemic money to start a business. My favorite medium to tell stories is film. With my wife's blessing I purchased all the gear I would need to shoot quality productions.

I didn't know if I was making the biggest mistake of my life. After all, that money could have bought a nice family van or paid down a nice chunk of our mortgage. All I knew is that I couldn't let fear keep me paralyzed anymore.

Several months went by, production jobs lined up and fell through and I began to wonder had I done the right thing. By February 2021 I wasn't sure this business was going to work. I was feeling on the edge of defeat. I don't know about you but I always feel like everything is on pause in February just waiting for spring.

One day I got up and ate breakfast with my dad. His health hadn't been the best and time seemed tight. We had always talked about filming family stories especially the one about my brother Josh. We were exchanging our normal morning greetings and a thought popped in my head. Before I could stop myself, I said "Dad, I don't know how but we are going to make the movie about Josh's life. We will start with you and mom's interviews."

Where was this coming from? I didn't have the money to fund a movie much less know how to get this done. I went to work wondering if I had just made a promise I couldn't keep. However, now, I don't believe I made that promise. I believe it came right from the Holy Spirit. I didn't know what that day would bring, but He did!

My mentor, J.R Pittman, set up a lunch meeting with someone that day. I arrived and as we sat down John asked me "Who is Andrew?" I told him I'm a story teller and my favorite medium to tell stories in is film. He asked me if I could just tell one story what would it be. I told him the story about my brother Josh. When I had finished, he asked me what I needed to accomplish this. I told him four to six thousand dollars. He said how about eight thousand dollars. My jaw hit the table. I had told my ideas countless times, to people who I thought would help or believe in them. This was the first time someone believed enough to put money on the table. I was stunned. I had no more excuses. It was clear God wanted the first film, the first story I told to be Josh's.

What followed was nothing short of a miracle. Tricia from Noble Pearls Media helped get the production off the ground. She found amazing talent, organized locations and talent to have amazing and productive shoots. Countless people gave their resources, time and talent. All of the shooting was done by June. Then came the task of post-production. I began to edit hundreds of hours of video down to one.

Even though I had heard these stories over and over again from my family, I was struck by the power of them. God clearly had a purpose for the life of my brother Joshua James. The countless times that God's presence could not be denied has my parents and others endlessly recounting His faithfulness. I wanted to show every word and every story. I was having trouble getting the editing done because I worked 40 hours a week at my day job and then came home and spent what little energy, I had left to organize massive interview footage and live action footage into a cleaned-up film.

July 30th I was baptizing some new believers in a creek when I tore my left bicep. It made work impossible. I could barely hold my arm standing. Worse yet, my insurance company wasn't going to cover the surgery. I watched God raise over 15,000 dollars in one week. I was shocked on Monday when the doctor had reviewed my MRI and decided I didn't need surgery.

The only thing I could do relatively pain free was edit the film. God used my torn bicep to give me the chance to edit the movie basically full time.

We decided that since January 9th was Josh's birthday and January is Sanctity of Life month, it would be a perfect date to release the film with a theatrical premiere celebrating his birthday.



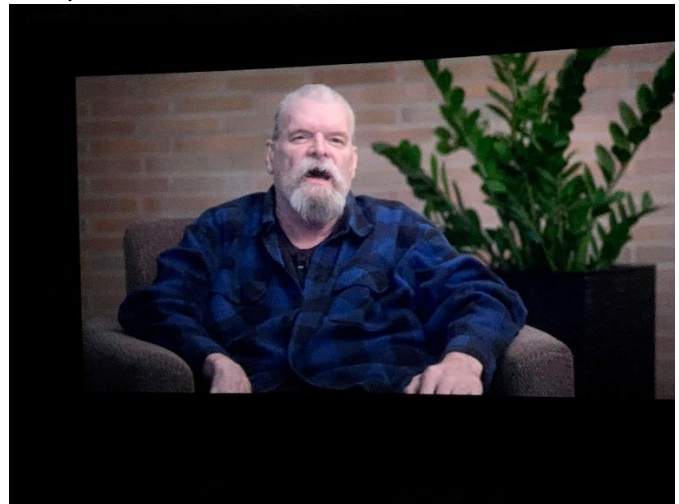
January 9th, 2023, Hamlet Productions and Kingdom Reel premiered THE LIFE & TIMES OF JOSHUA JAMES. A hundred and thirty plus watched the faithfulness of God, His love, and understood that what we find broken, God finds precious.

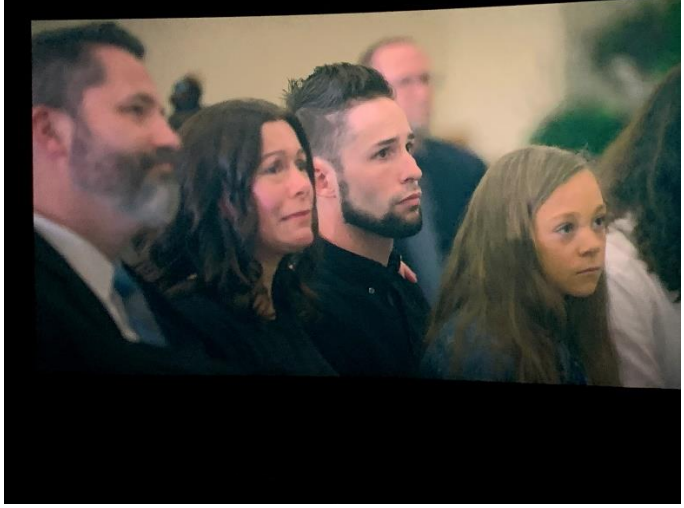
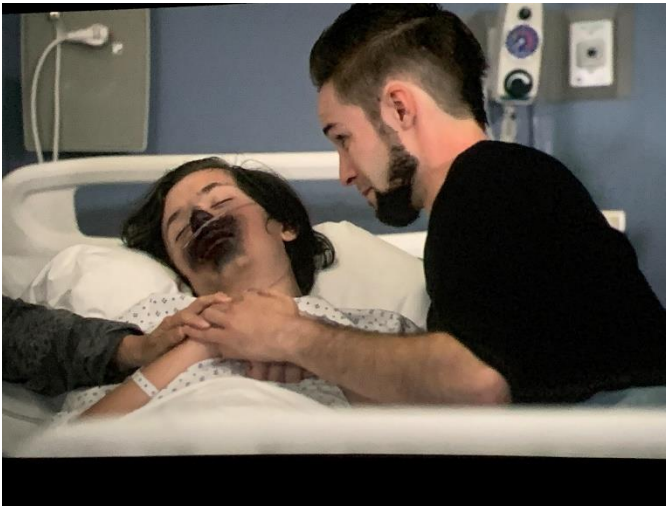


It was surreal to look back on this last year knowing it started with a hard conversation with myself. Do not bury your story or your talents. You never know when it's the missing piece of someone else's. ~~~ Pastor Andrew Hamlet



Pastor Bob and Robyn Hamlet, the parents of Joshua James





The Doctor gave Joshua James 9 hours to live. God gave Joshua James 28 years to live, before heaven.

THE LIFE & TIMES OF JOSHUA JAMES

HE RAN THE RACE WITHOUT TAKING A STEP



Please consider hosting a viewing of our film at your church!

Contact us at hamletproductionsllc@gmail.com

or at 616-328-4863

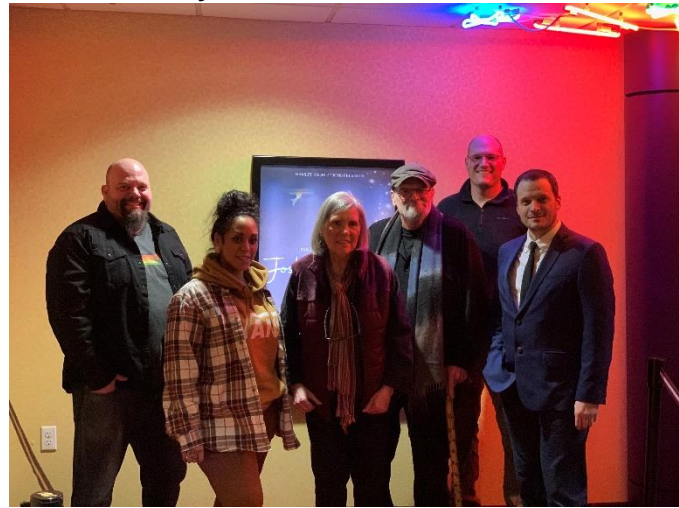
See more information about the film at:

hamletproductionsllc.com





Cast, Crew, and Hamlet Family



I thank Papa God Almighty, for giving me His Dream to share His Stories of His Children!

KINGDOM|REEL



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