



Clear 20°
5 Day Forecast

Search News GO

OurMidland Websites: NEWS | JOBS | AUTOS | BLOGS | FORUMS | VERGE | MI-tube | YELLOW PAGES

Monday, March 24, 2008

MAIN SECTION

- Local News
- Online Exclusives
- Police And Courts
- Crack The Case
- Editorial Page
- Accent Features
- Local Sports
- Great Lakes Loons
- Our Troops

MULTIMEDIA

- MultiMedia Homepage
- Soundslides
- Week In Pictures
- Photo Galleries
- Winter Sports 2007-08
- AP Video

WEB FEATURES

- Classifieds
- Obituaries
- Community Calendar
- Community Websites
- Pets Of The Week
- Featured Businesses
- Yellow Pages
- 2007 Readers' Choice

ONLINE SERVICES

- Announcement Forms
- Staff Directory
- Subscribe!
- Circulation Services
- Find A Newsstand
- News Archives
- RSS Feeds
- Newspapers In Education
- Newsletter E-Mail

FUN AND GAMES

- Fun And Games

Section Sponsored By

Click Here for Advertising Information

'What's Your Name?' subject of new documentary (includes video)

By [Angela E. Lackey](#)
03/23/2008

[Email to a friend](#) [Post a Comment](#) [Printer-friendly](#)



He walked into the area about five years ago, wearing only a white robe and a woolen sash and carrying only a worn devotional with Scripture and prayers. He spoke of loving one another and God, and then left after several months.

"What's Your Name?" a.k.a.. "Barefoot Evangelist" a.k.a. "The Jesus Guy."

He is penniless. He has long hair and an unkempt beard, and has the callused feet of someone who has walked barefoot for years. He has given up his identity, and reminds many people of Jesus Christ. He visits a place, preaches his message and then moves on, often without saying goodbye to anyone.

This, as they say, is the rest of the story.

It was the year 2000, and Sean Tracey had wanted to make a documentary for some time, but couldn't find a subject that grabbed his interest. Then he read a Time magazine article about "What's Your Name?".

"There was just this great photo of this man in this robe, arms outstretched toward the sky with a multitude of people behind him," Tracey said. "Something that stood out. He looked like an early apostle. Like someone who lived 2,000 years ago brought to life."

He ripped the article out and put it in his pile of possible documentary subjects. He couldn't get "What's Your Name?" out of his head. So he started searching for "What's Your Name?" (WYN for short.)

Top \$ellable\$

- [Bankruptcy AUCTION](#)
- [BED](#)
- [BED](#)
- [JACK RUSSELL puppies](#)
- [SYLVAN 2001](#)

[More info](#)

Top Jobs

- [ON-SITE PAINTER](#)
- [Teaching Assistant](#)
- [Volunteer Services Assistant](#)
- [Pharmacy Technicians](#)
- [Clerical, Cleaning/Janitorial, General Labor](#)

[More Top Jobs](#)

Top Rides

Price: \$12,900

1999 LS400 LEXUS

Price: \$5500/best

Taste of Home Cooking School made easy

Thursday, March 27, 2008

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Midland Center For The Arts

989-631-8250
www.mcfta.com

Simple Entertaining

Midland Area community foundation

Grant Proposals Due April 15, 2008

Wilson MILLER
FUNERAL HOME

- [Microscopes](#)
- [Crosswords](#)
- [Classic Games](#)
- AP WIRE HEADLINES**
- [AP US Headlines](#)
- [AP Weather](#)
- [AP Strange](#)
- [AP MidEast](#)
- [AP Europe](#)
- [AP Politics](#)
- [AP Finance & Business](#)
- [AP Entertainment](#)
- [AP Health & Science](#)
- [AP Basketball](#)
- [AP Hockey](#)

Tracey found the evangelist after several months of searching, and wrote him a letter saying he wanted to make a documentary of him. The phone rang a few months later. It was a call from someone who knew "What's Your Name?" He was in Bethlehem, Pa.

"I drove overnight and met him for Mass at a Catholic church where he was staying," Tracey said. "I didn't want to lose him. I just wanted to meet him.

"What I was really looking for was to see if this person could sustain a full feature-length film," he said. "After spending a couple of days with him there, I did feel that it was possible."

The barefoot evangelist was reluctant at first. Tracey learned later that an Academy Award-winning filmmaker already had begun a film with WYN months earlier. But the two had clashed, and WYN then had refused to be part of her project.

"He didn't want anything to do with her, so she had abandoned the project," Tracey said. But he was able to cut through the evangelist's defenses and he started filming "The Jesus Guy" in fall 2000.

Tracey had two goals --to show who WYN was in the most fair and balanced way and to not interfere with his life.

"I wanted the film to be like you were with him," Tracey said. "I wanted to feel what it was like to walk with him."

The viewer walks with the evangelist through the rain, his head covered with his woolen sash. The viewer follows him as he becomes testy with police, who order him to get a permit before speaking. The viewer is beside him as he passes by Trump Plaza, his plain clothes contrasting with the glitz.

Interspersed throughout the documentary are other people's comments -- "He's over the edge." "He's a blessing from God." "He has that hope." "He's a bum."

And his comment?

"People will say every kind of evil against you," he told one group. "For his name's sake, your blessing is great in heaven."

Some people have expressed doubt about the evangelist's sincerity, and said it was a publicity stunt. Tracey disagrees.

"From spending so much time with him and seeing what he does on a daily basis, I'm impressed and in awe of his commitment because it is not an easy mission he's undertaking," he said. "It's just way too hard a job."

His pace sometimes got to be too much for Tracey.

"I would go 18 hours straight. He would go 24 hours straight," he said. Tracey would find a hotel to get some sleep, and search for his documentary subject the next morning.

And where is WYN now? Staying at an Alabama shrine. Nearby is Eternal Word Television Network, the 24-hour Catholic broadcasting network, and home to some of the barefoot evangelist's friends.

Tracey is working with potential distributors; however, right now, people interested in seeing the documentary should contact Tracey through www.thejesusguy.com. The website includes a film trailer, reviews and dates and locations of upcoming screenings.

"The Jesus Guy" has been making the rounds at film festivals. It was an official selection at both the Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival and the New Hampshire Film Festival. The documentary has been lauded by journalists, directors and cinematographers.

"You feel like you're right there with this unusual man as his life is unfolding," said Bill Butler, an Academy Award- and Emmy-winning cinematographer whose credits include "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Biloxi Blues."

Tracey heads Sean Tracey Associates of Portsmouth, N.H. He already has another documentary planned about the spirituality of everyday people.

Perhaps Tracey's friend and mentor, Albert Maysles of Maysles Films, said it



1984 CORVETTE

Price: [\\$11,900](#)



2004 Trailblazer CHEVY

Price: [\\$12,900](#)
1999 LEXUS

Price: [\\$3,750](#)



1998 Astro Chevy

[More Top Rides](#)

Top Homes

Price: [\\$FOR RENT](#)
[\\$1,000/mo](#)



Price: [\\$FOR RENT](#)
[\\$675/mo](#)



Price: [\\$124,900](#)



[More Top Homes](#)



Online Obituaries

best when it comes to the appeal of making a documentary.

"He said, 'When you make a dramatic feature film, the director is God. When you make a true documentary film, God is the director,'" Tracey said.

"That was my experience."

©Midland Daily News 2008

[Email to a friend](#) [Post a Comment](#) [Printer-friendly](#) [↑ Top](#)



As Life Changes, So Do Your Financial Needs
Leslie Toland 989-486-1351 Itoland@metlife.com
©2008 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, NY 10166 LO607537(exp0609) **MetLife**

