

The Exchanger

THE EXCHANGER IS
THE MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
OF
FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK

A Second Chance for the Cinema?

Summer Movie Review

by Joe Fornear

“The Second Chance”
—Starring
Michael W Smith



The Mission of
FBCWR:
*Connecting People to
God’s Life-Changing
Power*

*We’ve Got
Connections!*

O LORD
God of hosts,
restore us;
Cause Your face
to shine upon us,
and we will be saved.

Psalm 80:19

I must admit, I love W as a musician, but as an actor? My cynical side was in overdrive – could this be anything more than an extended new album promo? I didn’t

expect much, but Smith earns high marks in his film debut because he manages to stay out of the way of an inspiring riches-to-rags story. Smith plays the spoiled mega-church worship pastor, Ethan Jenkins, but it becomes clear the film is not about musical ability but God’s gift of second chances.

The title comes from The Second Chance Community Church, an inner city sister church of Smith’s suburban mega-church The Rock. Both churches were founded by Ethan’s father, the pastor of the Rock, Jeremiah Jenkins. At Second Chance, God has been powerfully active in the lives of some very desperate people. Its African-American pastor is Jake Sanders (Jeff Obafemi Carr) who convincingly juggles compassion for the hurting, disdain for ghetto evildoers and resentment of rich white folks who throw money at his communities problems. In keeping with the double intent of the movie title, when Ethan is demoted by The Rock leaders and sent to “help” Jake, both men are offered another chance to rethink their prejudices and get their attitudes right. All the characters are flawed, like real life and the ultimate hero is God.

There were some puzzling plot leaps but hey, these were minor compared to 3 hours (or was it 13 hours) of nonstop reckless plot violations in the latest “Pirates of the Caribbean”. Hollywood increasingly asks us to pay our money and play along. Yet “The Second Chance” is worth our money and time because without being preachy or cheesy, it speaks a positive, biblical message. Plus, after all the moaning I have done about Hollywood, I feel convicted to gladly pay up when a decent show is offered. You can check it out on DVD at the movie rental stores.

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