



# 2015 Annual Report

## WHERE TO FIND US

### New York

Odyssey Networks  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 530  
NY, NY 10015

Office: 212 870 1030

Fax: 212 870 1040

[info@odysseynetworks.org](mailto:info@odysseynetworks.org)

[www.odysseynetworks.org](http://www.odysseynetworks.org)

### Los Angeles

Odyssey Networks  
4400 Coldwater Canyon Avenue,  
Suite 301

Studio City, CA 91604

Office: 818 358 3981

Fax: 818 358 3702

[www.odysseynetworks.tv](http://www.odysseynetworks.tv)



**ODYSSEY**<sup>SM</sup>  
NETWORKS



# Connect-Engage-Act

**Odyssey Networks** is a not-for-profit, interfaith media organization that **gives faith a voice in the public square**, showing the civic value of faith in action.

We bring together the top talent in the worlds of filmmaking, biblical and interfaith scholarship to **shine a light on the change-makers** whose work in government, social justice organizations and communities across the country do so much to **create a just and compassionate America**. Our stories explore a wide range of issues including peace, tolerance, justice, the environment and personal transformation.

Odyssey's programs **encourage people of faith and good will to work together** and take action towards making the world a better place **for all humankind**.

## CONTENTS

- 1 Letter from the Board Chair and President & CEO
- 2 Documentary Films and Impact Campaigns
- 4 Stories Of Faith In Film
- 5 ON Scripture – The Bible™
- 7 Faith on the Record
- 8 Awards
- 9 Financial Report
- 10 Staff & Board of Trustees



# Letter from Nick Stuart and Jim Wind

Dear Friends,

Life is not a spectator sport.

Our lives can not only be witnesses to a world of justice and compassion and hope, but actually help bring that world about.

People of faith and moral courage need a voice in this media-centered world. It's a world where a tweet or a film can inspire a generation, mobilize millions or turn a single ordinary viewer into an extraordinary change-maker, one life at a time. Odyssey Networks gives you that voice.

In 2015 our stories of people's resilience and work for justice, bringing the faith and secular worlds together in a powerful combination and told through our documentaries, TV movies and short form programming on the web, hit new heights.

The prestigious Sundance International Film Festival accepted "Newtown", the documentary co-produced by our Transform Films Inc. company, into its 2016 event. It is the story of resilience in the face of communal trauma after the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The film will also be shown on PBS' "Independent Lens" in 2017.

Along with each of our three 2015 TV movies being seen by over a million households, and the growth of our weekly "On Scripture - *The Bible*" product that uses video and biblical commentary to shine the light of Scripture on current events, we are providing the media and campaign opportunities that change-makers need.

The documentaries produced in 2015 will launch three impact campaigns in 2016, becoming the center pieces of national screening campaigns and support materials for those working for change in the areas of mass incarceration, gun violence, community resilience and the challenges faced by returning veterans.

Working alongside dozens of organizations involved in actively working to bring about justice, compassion and peace, the media you helped us create will make sure our change-makers are not voiceless. Thank you.

Nick Stuart, CEO

James P. Wind, Chair



Nick Stuart



Jim Wind



# DOCUMENTARY FILMS AND IMPACT CAMPAIGNS

**Odyssey Networks** builds impact campaigns around documentaries to inform and engage people of faith and good will and move them from inspiration to action to create a more just and compassionate world.

In 2015 Odyssey established **Transform Films Inc.**, an independent production company that works with award-winning independent filmmakers and enables them to realize their creative visions in meaningful documentaries with social justice themes. The films produced by TFI become the cornerstone of Odyssey's Impact Campaigns.

As **Transforms Films** and its partners continued production on three important documentaries in 2015, Odyssey worked to build coalitions with faith-based and secular change-makers who are invested in working toward solutions on the issues lifted up in the films.

## MILWAUKEE 53206



Mass incarceration in America is a complex issue with many causes and disastrous effects. **Milwaukee 53206** is a one-hour documentary that looks at the impact of mass incarceration on the zip code in America that incarcerates the highest percentage of its African-American men. How do families cope? What happens to the life of a community? The Impact Campaign for this film, which will launch in 2016, will seek to address specific and actionable issues that have been raised in conversations with our potential faith-based partners.



This film is an eye-opening look at the realities of post-military life for women military veterans and a case study on overcoming the universal experience of trauma. As she seeks to help others heal the hidden wounds of military service, one female veteran in Texas realizes she must confront her own past – leading an ensemble cast of women on a journey of healing with honesty, courage and humor. The film will provide the basis for a national grassroots impact campaign by Odyssey Networks focusing on support systems for women veterans dealing with moral injury, military sexual trauma and other hidden wounds as they transition from military to civilian life.



How does a community cope in the face of an unimaginable tragedy born of gun violence? The world watched in horror as this small town in Connecticut had to deal with the murder of 20 six-and-seven-year-old children and 6 teachers at the hand of disturbed young man with an arsenal of weapons. As production of the feature film was completed in anticipation of its world premiere at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival, Odyssey worked to build a coalition of faith-based partners to address the issues of community resilience, gun violence in America and training and support for clergy who may face similar situations in their own congregations and communities.



# STORIES OF FAITH IN FILM

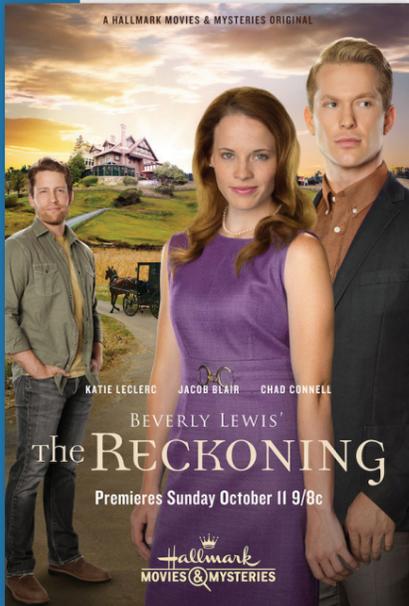


@DFinley22: Awww I knew it still crying #TheReckoning @hallmark-movie incredible cast

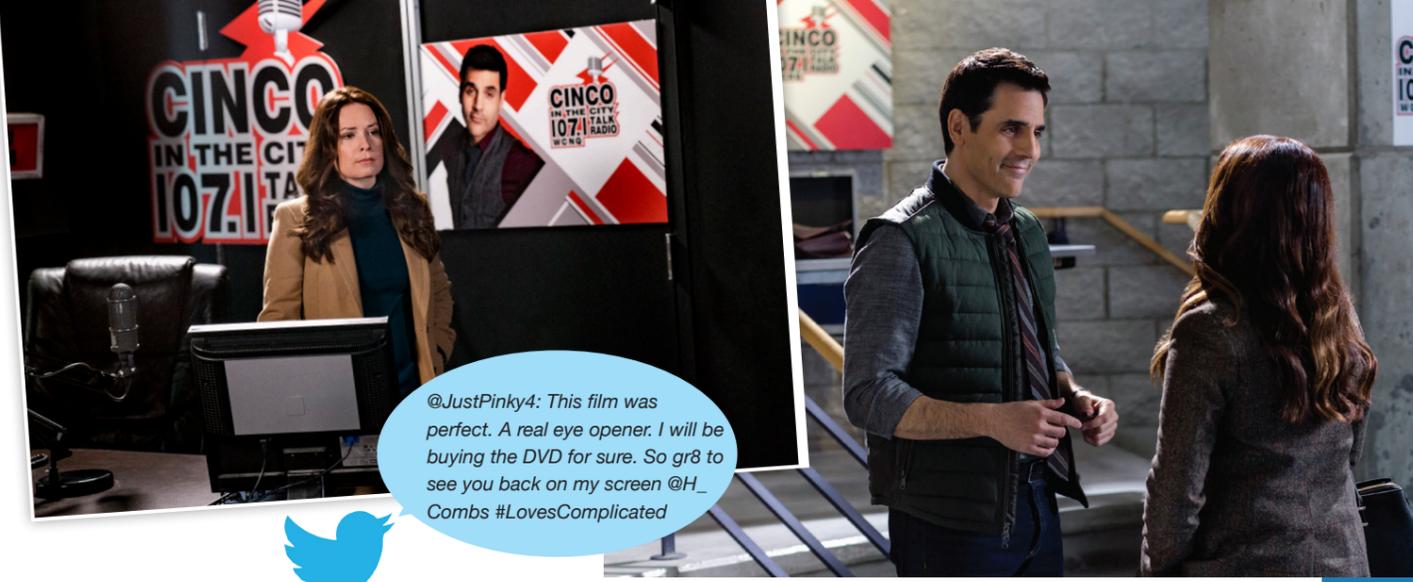
**Odyssey Networks** remains at the forefront of the Scripted Made-for-Television world, continuing to supply uplifting films to our cable network broadcast partners in 2015. We are proud to announce that, for the second consecutive year, we produced three films with our broadcast partners. Moreover, we secured three more productions for the upcoming 2016 production—**an unprecedented success for the scripted department.**

Odyssey Networks deepened its successful relationship with Hallmark Channel and in 2015 by producing three films with America's leader in family- and values-based entertainment.

Beverly Lewis' acclaimed Heritage of Lancaster County trilogy came to a conclusion with our production of *The Reckoning*, written by Brian Bird, Executive Produced by Michael Landon Jr., and starring Katie LeClerc as Katherine Mayfield. *The Reckoning* reached 1.1 million households when it aired on October 11, 2015 and helped boost Hallmark Movies & Mysteries to be the #9 rated Prime Time cable network for the evening. *The Reckoning* concludes the story began in *The Shunning* and continued in *The Confession* and finds Katherine Mayfield, the new mistress of Mayfield Manor, and the head of her late mother's charitable Mayfield Foundation. In her new world she finds solace in honoring her mother's memory and in love with Justin Wirth (Chad Connell), the Director of her foundation. Unknown to Katie, her lost love, Daniel Fisher (Jacob Blair), makes a desperate attempt to find her and win her affection. Katie finds herself torn between these two men who represent two different ways of life. She struggles to reconcile the deep conflicts residing within her: how will Katie remain true to her faith and principles while embracing her place in this new world? *The Reckoning* was approved for a Dove Seal by The Dove Foundation, which wrote: "*The Reckoning* is a dramatic, romantic film about honoring your heritage, making choices, and following your own heart. Katie LeClerc is outstanding as Katherine Mayfield...."



@BethP9999: #TheReckoning The human heart needs more than the old ways can give it. #Profound



@JustPinky4: This film was perfect. A real eye opener. I will be buying the DVD for sure. So gr8 to see you back on my screen @H\_Combs #LovesComplicated



Our second production with Hallmark Channel, *The Magic Stocking*, based on an original screenplay by Buddy Baron, aired on December 6, 2015. The program achieved an audience of 1.2 million households, making it the second most watched original film and fifth most watched original movie of all time on Hallmark Movies & Mysteries. *The Magic Stocking* stars Bridget Regan as Lindsey Monroe, a widowed mother who finds the holiday season too much to bear since her husband passed away three years ago, right before Christmas. Lindsay rediscovers her ability to love when a Christmas stocking she finds at a church rummage sale proves to have magical properties—a stocking that sparks her faith and brings her family together.

*Love's Complicated*, the third film produced with Hallmark Channel in 2015, aired on January 9, 2016 to 2.2 million viewers, becoming the #1 rated movie of the week. The film, based on the Thomas Nelson "Women of Faith" author Rene Gutteridge's book, *My Life as a Doormat*, stars Holly Marie Combs, Ben Bass, and Corbin Bernsen. In *Love's Complicated*, acclaimed novelist Lea Townshend (Combs) finds that her life is at a crossroads. Living in the shadow her father, a US Senator, and in a rut with her kindly and caring yet predictable boyfriend, Leah is also finding her second novel proving much more difficult to write than the first. It's a difficult situation made worse by the fact that Lea goes out of her way to avoid conflict at all costs, least of all the ones residing deep within herself. Lea's fortunes take an unexpected turn when she's unwillingly enrolled in an anger management class, and meets a man (Bass) which forces her to open her eyes, heart, and faith to love—and to come to terms with the person she is destined to be.

Our 2014 UPTV holiday film, *Paper Angels*, was nominated for the Movieguide Epiphany Prize. *Paper Angels* is based on the novel of the same name by country music artist Jimmy Wayne. It was the highest rated film in the history of UP when it debuted in November 2014, with 1.9 million viewers. Maura Dunbar and James Crawford attended the awards in January 2015 with director David Winning and young star Rustin Gresiuk.

As a result of the success of these three productions and our award nomination from 2015, we have already secured commitments for three more films in 2016—*The Rooftop Christmas Tree* with UPTV, as well as *The Convenient Groom* and *A December Bride*, both with Hallmark Channel. Through our partnerships with Hallmark and UP, we continue to create a space where faith-based authors and their stories find a voice on network television.



@Khoezo: #MagicStocking @hallmark-movie #CountdowntoChristmas was really Magic! For everybody who miss a loved one during these days, feel the <3





# ON Scripture

## – *The Bible*™

2015 WAS A TURBULENT YEAR FOR COMMUNITIES across the US. ON Scripture –*The Bible* brought a faith perspective to the headlines in an unprecedented timely fashion that lead engagement and dialogue among faith leaders and their communities as they grappled with issues of race and violence, immigration and poverty.

Using video and biblical commentary in a powerful combination, ON Scripture covered the church shooting in Charleston with a special edition released within 12 hours of the event that included reflections from our key scholars coupled with a video of a prayer vigil at New York’s Time Square. We also covered the anniversary of the American Disabilities Act with a moving interview from L’Arch founder and 2015 Templeton Award winner Jean Vanier.

We travelled back to Ferguson for the one-year anniversary with Sojourners’ Lisa Sharon Harper for an insightful look at community progress in the year since the death of Michael Brown. Her commentary was teamed with a short documentary featuring Ferguson faith community activist Rev. Traci Blackmon touring our cameras through the streets and neighborhoods where Brown lived.

To get these stories to our social media community, ON Scripture staff developed and finalized [www.onscripture.com](http://www.onscripture.com), a new distribution and social media hub that brings together all 300+ ON Scripture video / commentary packages in one highly intuitive user-friendly space.



Behind the Scenes of Filming in Laredo, Texas



God's Little Acre

The development was funded by the generous support of the Lilly Endowment in the second of two grants awarded to ON Scripture in December of 2014.

Alongside the creation of the website, 2015 was a year of development, strategic planning and growth. ON Scripture announced the launch of a partnership with the American Theological Library Association around search engine optimization (SEO), which has played a key role in improving ON Scripture’s visibility on the web. ON Scripture continued to strengthen its partnership with Fuller Theological Seminary and the Olgivy Institute Micah Group initiative by sharing our content for their educational resources.

Clergy, seminarians, lay leaders, and individuals wanting to have a faith perspective on what was happening in the public square came to ON Scripture in greater numbers than ever before.

ON Scripture continued to see strong support from its platform partners and was featured in their social media campaigns on Facebook and Twitter. This coverage and distribution of our weekly packages also contributed to solid growth.



Ferguson Remembers, One Year Since the Death of Michael Brown



Breaking the Law to Feed the Homeless

## How to Get ON Scripture–*The Bible*

[www.onscripture.com](http://www.onscripture.com)

**Huffington Post:** <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/on-scripture/>

**Day 1:** [http://day1.org/6223-on\\_scripture\\_the\\_bible](http://day1.org/6223-on_scripture_the_bible)

**Patheos:** <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/onscripture/>

**Sojourners:** <http://sojo.net/blogs>

**TextWeek:** <http://www.textweek.com>

**Insights into Religion:** <http://www.religioninsights.org/articles/scripture-weekly-resources>



## FAITH ON THE RECORD

Lifting up the voice of faith in a 24-hour news culture that often ignores it.

In 2015 **Faith On The Record** continued to give people of faith a powerful and relevant voice in the public square. Through this weekly Vlog by Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, we were able to immediately address top-of-mind issues in the news and culture from a faith perspective. FOTR can be seen on [odysseynetworks.org](http://odysseynetworks.org), [TheWisdomDaily.com](http://TheWisdomDaily.com), and is syndicated through [aol.com](http://aol.com).

### Some of the most-viewed FOTRs in 2015 -

- **Charleston Shooting: This Story is Far From Over**
- **Amazon, Radical Innovation and the Value of the Sabbath**
- **The Confederate Flag, Symbols and Scapegoats**



### Habitat for Humanity and the Theology of the Hammer

- Bronze Telly Award
- Bronze People's Telly Award
- RCC DeRose Hinkhouse Award of Merit



### Breaking the Law to Feed the Homeless

- Bronze Telly Award



### Ferguson Remembers: One Year Since the Death of Michael Brown

- Gold Horizon Award



### Life After Hate

- Gold Horizon Award

### Vigil for the Charleston Shooting Victims

- Silver Horizon Award



### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2015	2014*
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	23,516,933	28,283,211
Fixed Assets & Development costs	121,087	181,430
Other Assets, Intangible Assets & Investments	2,176,919	317,941
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>25,814,939</b>	<b>28,782,582</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
Current Liabilities	3,782,058	3,769,289
Net Assets	22,032,881	25,013,293
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>25,814,939</b>	<b>28,782,582</b>

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Operating Revenue & Support	452,751	3,555,859
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Less: Production Expenses	1,755,942	1,644,653
Supporting Services	1,763,544	1,958,653
Other Income & Expenses, Net	-86,323	51,777
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,433,163</b>	<b>3,655,083</b>
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	-2,980,412	-99,224
Net Assets, unrestricted, beginning of year	25,013,293	25,112,517
<b>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	<b>22,032,881</b>	<b>25,013,293</b>

These figures represent a consolidation of Odyssey Networks (NICC) and Friends of NICC, Inc.

\* An adjustment has been made to the prior period equity reflecting the losses incurred and accumulated by the inactive subsidiaries. This adjustment is a book entry only and has no effect on any tax liability



**Nick Stuart**

President & CEO

**Jonathan Abreu**

Assistant Editor

**Michelle Budnick**

Line Producer

**CarolAnne Dolan**

Head of Programming

**Maura Dunbar**

Executive Vice President,  
Chief Content Officer (LA)

**Selby Ewing**

Project Director, ON Scripture – The Bible

**Anne Faustin**

Director of Impact Campaigns

**Shakima Gillings**

Assistant Controller

**Adam Miller**

Factual Program Manager

**Sarah Porter**

Administrative Assistant (LA)

**Ruby Roca**

Factual Program Assistant

**Jessie Shook**

Impact Campaign Assistant

**Erin Sullivan**

Coordinator, Marketing and Social Media

**Patrick Zagdanski**

Web Project Manager

**Venus Zambrana**

Office Manager & PA to CEO

**CONSULTANTS**

**Mary Brown**

ON Scripture Editor

**James Crawford**

Director of Development (LA)

**David Dreilinger**

Ducksoup Media Enterprises LLC

**Julie Grusd**

The Finance Department

**Alice Sciara**

The Finance Department

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**The Rev. Dr. James Wind**

Board Chair  
Herndon, VA

**Nick Stuart** President & CEO  
Odyssey Networks

**Rabbi Alvin Berkun**

Pittsburgh, PA

**Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl**

Board Secretary  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America  
Sioux Falls, SD

**Rabbi Daniel Frelander**

Board Vice Chair  
President, World Union for  
Progressive Judaism,  
New York, NY

**Rabbi Brad Hirschfield**

Clal: The National Jewish  
Center for Learning  
and Leadership, NY

**Craig Matthews**

Basking Ridge, NJ

**Elder Fred Kinsey**

Beltsville, MD

**Rev. Douglas Leonard**

Al Amana Center, Oman

**The Rev. Robert Ross Warren**

Treasurer  
Santa Ana, CA

**Father Frank Desiderio C.S.P.**

Boston, MA

**The Rev Dr. Daniel P. Matthews**

Chair Emeritus  
New York, NY

**Marcia Fingal,**

New York, NY

**Joe Gallagher,**

Pasadena, CA

**Dominic Crossley-Holland**

London, UK

