

Alex Kendrick

Alex Kendrick and his brother Steven are the masterminds behind the Sherwood Baptist Church movies. First there was “Fly Wheel”. Next there was “Facing the Giants”, then “Fireproof”, “Couragous”, “War Room”, “Over Comer” and “the Forge”. If you have not seen all of these, or any of them, you must!! Each one is amazing offering so much for Christian edification. Facing the Giant is my all-time favorite with so many life lessons. When Alex was young, they only went to very conservative movies. He loved movies and wanted to make them. He just wasn’t sure how that would happen.

When he was about 12, his dad was diagnosed with MS. He battled the disease and the depression of knowing it would only progress. One day his dad said, “God has laid it on my heart to open a Christian school”. His family’s reaction was “WITH WHAT? There’s no money, no anything”. He replied, “with God’s help”. They prayed earnestly as a family. He told everyone at his church and the word spread. Meantime, 2 schools in Atlanta shut down and offered all of their supplies, desks, lockers, etc. 2 churches offered a wing of their church to use. Teachers were interested! The first year they had 81 students, the next 110, the next 170, now it is 600. One day his dad said, I need \$7,000 to expand. His family said, “where will that come from?” He said “This is a legitimate need; God will honor that. Lord, you know what we need, we want to honor you. Please fill our needs.” They prayed for that money, and the NEXT day a father walked into his office and said, “I am so happy with the school, I felt led to bring this to you”. My father said, “I already know what it is”. He opened the check and it was for \$7,000.

Fast forward to a young married Alex. He was called to a church in Albany, GA to be Youth Leader. He realized that it was not Hollywood and there was little chance that he could make a movie there. But he went. He asked God to take this desire to make movies away from him. Have you ever realized that a dream you had will probably not be realized? So you ask God to take away that desire. Alex did that. What he found was that he buried that dream, and God resurrected it, because God is good at resurrecting things! One day he went to the Pastor and asked, “what if we made a small movie to present to the community as an outreach?” The pastor’s response was “Well, we are in the middle of a building fund, it’s so hard to get people to give money as it is, we can’t ask them for anything else, but I don’t want

to stand in the way if this is God, so if you can raise the money, without asking for it, go for it". So he prays.

One day he and his wife need a used van for their growing family. They go to the local car dealership and make a deal. As he is pulling out of the dealership with his van, God gives him the plot for his first movie. It's about a used car salesman who cheats people. Business is bad so he starts going to the biggest church in town to "be seen" by potential buyers. One day the Pastor buys a car from him and he deceives him, but as the Pastor is about to leave, he asked if he could pray for him. So, the pastor's prayer is this "Lord, thank you for this car. I pray that it will give us years of good service and that you will bless Jay and thank you for the good deal he gave me, and would you treat him the way he has treated me". Well, this really makes Jay concerned, and he started to realize how he has treated customers, his wife, his kids, and he takes a whole new look at his life and eventually gives his life to God. Now Alex writes the script, and he prays constantly about it. "Lord, you have given me the script, now please fund this project." He prays fervently. He has decided it will take about \$20,000 minimum, so he prays, Lord we NEED \$20,000. A couple walk into his office and say, "Alex, we have been praying every night, and the Lord keeps putting you on our hearts, we want to know, WHAT are you doing? We feel like God just keeps saying 'Go help Alex' so WHAT do you need?" Alex replies, "we want to make a movie" The couple say, "well, ok, what do you need?" Alex says, "well, we need \$20,000". The couple look at each other and say, "ok, we will write you a check". They made the first movie. God was amazing to show up every time they needed something. If you get the time, listen to the entire you tube as he tells this story. There is more to the story, and it is all amazing to hear how God just keeps honoring their prayers. The movies are really God honoring and uplifting, but the real stories of how they each came about are just as God honoring and uplifting as the movies.

Lord, James 5:16 The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Please remind us to pray over every need. AMEN

Shirlene Peterson