

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Greg Kinnear was signed last Wednesday to portray Todd Burpo of Imperial in the "Heaven is for Real" movie, Sony Pictures' adaptation of the best-selling true-life book by Burpo and Lynn Vincent.

Kinnear is known for his acting in "As Good as It Gets," "The Kennedys," "I Don't Know How She Does It," "Little Miss Sunshine" and "Auto Focus."

Burpo said last week that auditions continue for actors for other parts in the movie.

"Heaven is For Real" recounts the experiences of Burpo and wife Sonja's son Colton, who as a four-year-old said he went to heaven during a surgical procedure.

He told his parents of things that he couldn't possibly have known about the lives of his family that he experienced in heaven.

The movie version was to have been out this December, Burpo said, but some delays have been experienced.

The movie will be produced by Joe Roth ("Oz the Great and Powerful") and Bishop T.D. Jakes of Potters House Church of Dallas, with Randall Wallace ("Secretariat"), directing.

DeVon Franklin of Sony's TriStar division is overseeing the project.