



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

One of the executive producers on the set of the movie version of "Heaven is for Real" will be in Imperial Sunday.

The public is invited to hear Derrick Williams speak at Crossroads Wesleyan Church Sunday at a special 10:45 a.m. service.

Todd Burpo of Imperial, who co-authored "Heaven is for Real" about his son Colton's near-death experience in 2003 as a four-year-old, is pastor of the church where Williams will speak Sunday.

Burpo said the service will include Christmas carols, a showing of the just-released "Heaven is for Real" movie trailer as well as personal testimony from Williams.

The service will then include a question-and-answer interview format as Burpo and Colton ask Williams questions about the making of the movie.

There may also be time for questions from those attending, Burpo said.

Burpo said he tried to get someone from the set here to help "unwrap the complex process" of making a movie such as "Heaven is for Real."

"They see the finished product but do not see all the steps to carry it along," Burpo said. "It's a complex process."

Their goal with Sunday's program is to give a "behind-the-curtain" look at the movie-making process.

"And the only way to do that was to bring someone here," Burpo said.

Williams' promotional efforts have included "The Pursuit of Happyness," "Not Easily Broken" and "The Karate Kid" (remake).

Williams was also involved as a marketing expert in such movies as "Jumping the Broom" in 2011, has marketed several urban musicals and managed the careers of Gospel and R&B artists such as Fred Hammond, Karen Clark-Sheard and Wynton Marsalis.

Working closely with T.D. Jakes Ministries the past 17 years, Williams has facilitated all aspects of Jakes' entertainment division including producing feature films, TV production, stadium conferences and more.