



Lorna's Take...

## On Mel Gibson's Hope

By Lorna Dueck, host of "Listen Up"

**F**or a year now, we've tried to arrange an interview we likely won't get by the time this issue is printed. My curiosity has me wanting to ask Mel Gibson why he would spend over \$50 million of his personal wealth on what he called a "career killer," his decision to make a movie on the death of Jesus.

I've wanted to probe the story of what Mel Gibson experienced about Christ that would compel him to take the boldest move of faith the movie industry may have ever seen. So far, the most insight I have gained came through a conversation I had with a close contact of his, Doug Martinez, a California business owner.

He says Mr. Gibson traces the roots of his personal relationship with Christ to a moment when he was standing on a window ledge contemplating suicide. That was about 12 years ago, he explains. At that time of crisis, images of the wounds of Christ started to appear in Mel Gibson's despairing mind. Apparently, the experience was tangible enough that it prompted him away from suicide and onto a deeply Christian path to recover his hope. The movie is an outcome of his relationship with Christ, and a stunning offering that every Christian should share with a friend who does not yet know Christ. Already, churches have booked entire theatres for Easter Sunday so the movie can be used for outreach.

When *The Passion* arrived for an advance screening for Canadian clergy on January 14, host Bob Kramer of Campus Crusade told us that Mel Gibson only appears as hands and feet in this movie. His hands are those used to pound the nails into the hands of Christ. A symbolic witness of his belief that Christ died for his sins.

I was deeply stirred by this movie. The women in their roles of Mary and Mary Magdalene brought the love of Christ deep into my heart. Mel Gibson said in one of the few interviews he has given to date, "My hope is that the movie will change people's lives." Watch *Listen Up's* review of *The Passion* at [www.listenuptv.com](http://www.listenuptv.com); explore the movie at [www.sharethelife.com](http://www.sharethelife.com)



**Mel Gibson (right), directing a scene from *The Passion* movie**