

**ARE WE THERE**

**YET**



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# [SYNOPSIS]

Calvin Lee and Marisa Prince are Believers of Color - and frustrated Evangelical outsiders - seeking more for the American Christian Church.

*Are We There YET* follows their cross country Road Trip to better understand the Doctrine of Discovery, its connection to contemporary Christian Nationalism, and if it's possible to chart a new course for the American Christian Church.

*"Terrific. This deserves a robust activation campaign.*

*I've read the entire 180 page manifesto of the kid who killed 13 in Buffalo... This Film is the rebuttal to that."*

- Head of Production Company, PhilmCo

*"Your film is here as a statement of lament and prophetic justice for such a time as this."*

- Department Head, American Baptist Home Mission Societies

[Website](#)

[Trailer](#)

Running Time: 36:25

Directed By: Marisa L.R. Prince

A Standing in the Gap Documentary





↑  Concourse/  
 Metro/Park

WHEN USING  
ELEVATORS PLEASE  
Allow Some Extra Space



# [ABOUT THE FILM]

American Christianity has a complicated history of power, abuse, oppression and discrimination. In 1493, Pope Alexander VI issued an edict - now known as The Doctrine of Discovery - to justify the future land and waterway claims of European explorers. The ideology dehumanized Indigenous populations, justifying murder and forced assimilation. Years later, the Doctrine continued to shape seminal constructs (Manifest Destiny) and Supreme Court cases, including 1823's Johnson v. McIntosh, which was used to evict Native people from their lands.

Fast forward to 2016. Bismarck, ND. The Standing Rock Reservation burst onto the world's radar during the Dakota Access Pipeline Protests. People came from far and wide to stand in solidarity with Native communities who considered the oil pipeline a threat to their water, sacred burial grounds and historically significant cultural sites. Rev. John Floberg, an Episcopal Clergy who has served on the reservation for 31 years, invited 100 faith leaders around the country to join a day of solidarity. More than 500 leaders from 20 different faiths showed up - and during a key moment of lament and conviction, many gathered around a campfire to burn copies of the Doctrine of Discovery.

In what ways is the Doctrine of Discovery alive and well in the values and behaviors of Contemporary Christians? Are its tenets so embedded that we should've foreseen the events of January 6th, and the rise of White Christian Nationalism?

It's been said that in order to salvage the American Democratic Experiment, Christians will have to chart a new course. But are they too far gone? The film journeys to discover what it could look like for contemporary Christians to finally break with the past, and usher in a new day for both Christianity and America at large.







# MARISA L.R. PRINCE

## [DIRECTOR]



Marisa Prince is passionate about building bold, creative initiatives that facilitate transformative experiences. She's produced over twenty projects (global livestream events & concert specials, podcast/livestream, docuseries sizzle reel, short films, music & corporate videos and a web series), and also co-produced a feature-length documentary submitted to the 2004 Sundance Film Festival. Her short film, "Awakenings", was submitted for consideration for the 2014 Academy Award for Best Short Film. In addition to earning a B.A. in Sociology from Spelman College and a JD from Boston College Law School, Prince is also a proud graduate of the Los Angeles Film School's Immersion Producing Program.

In 2018, Marisa Prince and Calvin Lee Co-Founded *American Awakening*, a seven-figure national Arts/Entertainment Campaign raging against the divisiveness of the 2020 political cycle. The AA Team (spread across Massachusetts, Tennessee, Florida & Hawaii) partnered with William Morris Endeavor (WME), Harper Collins/Zondervan Publishing, Relevant Media Group, Christianity Today, Premier Productions, and Q Ideas to produce/distribute a [book](#), [71 episode podcast](#), [rooftop concert](#), [daily devotional](#), [published articles](#), docuseries episodes and national thought-leader gatherings.

In 2020, Prince & Lee launched [GOSPEL], an initiative to curate creative spaces to catalyze more for the American Christian Church. Their latest Film premieres Fall 2022, and they're working to produce both a Podcast and a feature length Documentary in 2023.





# [DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT]

When the Christians are storming the Capitol, sexually abusing parishioners, and protecting power over people, something's gotta change.

The American Christian Church needs vibrant spaces geared towards Believers of Color, Next-Gen Christians (18-45) and supporters of justice for all.

We need challenging content for Jesus-people who know racism, sexism, poverty and inequity are incompatible with our faith - and can be eradicated within our lifetime.

And we need innovation and healing that comes from bringing wide tents of creative, problem-solving Believers together on behalf of the most urgent challenges of our day.

We have an appetite for fresh spaces and content that grapple with how our faith can engage the world and shape the future of the Church. There's a hunger for honesty, equity, freedom and justice in our faith communities, our world and in the media we consume.

Calvin & I envision a wide-tent Church - free from its own bondage, and choosing to see beyond itself - moving collectively to eradicate inequity in our world. We pray our content cultivates bold leaders unafraid to speak truth to power, who will lead the American Christian Church to become an intentional champion for freedom and necessary change.

In 2022, in response to COVID, our Racial Reckoning, the political divide and economic strife, the American Christian Church is either growing and changing, or standing still and slowly dying. Regardless of how we feel, our way forward lies together. So who do we want to be, and where will we go from here? I hope *Are We There YET* challenges the contemporary Church to begin assessing its American origin story, and the foundational values that impact its value and treatment of all people.





# [LINKS]

*Are We There YET* official website:  
[wearegospel.world/awty](http://wearegospel.world/awty)

Watch the Trailer:  
[PLAY](#)

Production Stills:  
[Site](#)







# [FAQ]

Q: How long was the shoot, and where did you film?

A: 6 days shooting from Boston to Washington DC to Fort Yates, North Dakota.

Q: How long did it take to make the film?

A: 6 months, from ideation to completion.

Q: How long have Calvin & Marisa been working together?

A: 4 years, as of July 2022.

Q: What is [GOSPEL]? And what's Standing in the Gap?

A: [GOSPEL] believes we will never win the fight against poverty, inequity, racism and injustice without a clear commitment from the American Christian Church. Through innovative content, events and gatherings, [GOSPEL] curates creative spaces to catalyze more for the American Christian Church. Founded in 2020 by Marisa Prince and Calvin Lee, [GOSPEL] is a project of Standing in the Gap. Standing In the Gap is a 501c3 that creates Current Content to Build the Global Christian Church. We're a Media Development & Production entity changing trajectories - especially for young people of color and of faith - through the creation of unifying and edifying media; mentoring programs for young leaders; education and equipping; and art that transforms our world.





# [CREDITS]

## DIRECTOR

Marisa L.R. Prince

## WRITERS

Marisa L.R. Prince  
Calvin D. Lee

## PRODUCERS

Marisa L.R. Prince  
Calvin D. Lee  
Tamika Lamison

## FEATURING

Rev. Mariama White-Hammond  
Rev. John Floberg  
Mark Charles  
Bob GreyEagle  
Dakota Goodhouse  
Calvin D. Lee  
Marisa L.R. Prince

## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Amanda Kowalski

## EDITOR

Joel Cosand

## SECOND CAMERA OPERATOR

Jeffrey Griecci

## SOUND MIXER

Matthew Glover

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Robert Ferguson

## ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Cristian Palacios

## COLORIST & ONLINE EDITING

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Modulus Studios

## SPECIAL THANKS

Phyllis Young  
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PHILMCO  
ASPIRE Foundation  
ABHMS  
Busboys & Poets  
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STANDING IN THE GAP Presents in Association with PHILMCO MEDIA LLC A MARISA L.R. PRINCE Production "ARE WE THERE YET"  
Edited By JOEL COSAND Directory of Photography AMANDA KOWALSKI Written By MARISA L.R. PRINCE & CALVIN D. LEE  
Produced By MARISA L.R. PRINCE CALVIN D. LEE & TAMIKA LAMISON Directed By MARISA L.R. PRINCE