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**”Evangelicals Seeking Faith-based, Family Friendly Vacations are Driving Rapidly Growing Christian Travel Market”**

SEAL BEACH, Calif. February 6, 2006 -- For many Evangelical Christians the definition of an "all-inclusive" vacation incorporates an emphasis on faith. And with more travel and tour companies offering products geared specifically to this segment a rapidly growing travel market is developing for these nearly 70 million Americans – 25% of the population according to a recent Gallup Poll.

“We are targeting the same group that helped catapult *Narnia* to the top of the box office, make Christian contemporary music titles outsell jazz and classical combined, and turn Rick Warren's *The Purpose-Driven Life* into one of the best-selling books in U.S. history,” says Honnie Korngold, who founded the Southern California-based Christian Travel Finder two years ago. “We find that if Christians are given the opportunity to choose a cruise or other vacation that’s family-friendly and enriches their faith, they’ll definitely choose that alternative.”

“It seems, neither sluggish economic conditions nor continued threats of terrorism prevent religious groups from gathering and many churches are combining their conferences and retreats with travel programs like cruises”, says Korngold. “In times like these, for Christians, affirming their faith becomes more important than ever.”

At the First Annual [Faith-Based Marketing Summit](#) held in Dallas, Texas in November, Honnie Korngold shared with the group of nearly 200 in attendance, “In the not-too-distant past, religious consumers and groups were considered the stepchildren of the travel and meetings industry. But, the events of 9/11 coupled with economic downturn changed all that. The suppliers hurt by corporate business suddenly began to take this group very seriously.” She added, “With 14.2 million attendees in 2004 at religious conventions, 8 million attendees a year at Christian camps and conference centers and an untold number of organized retreats hosted by 330, 000 churches across America, it is easy to see why the economic clout of this rapidly growing segment is capturing the travel industry’s attention.

“Our organization was just featured in an article in the Travel Section of [USA Today](#) (“On a Wing and a Prayer, Laura Bly) on January 22, 2006, that brought light to this burgeoning Christian Travel segment. Our phones are ringing off the hook from travelers that had no idea that family-friendly, faith-based alternatives existed. This is further evidence to us that this is new knowledge to the majority of Christians,” Korngold adds.

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## **"Evangelicals Driving Rapidly Growing Christian Travel Market" (page 2)**

"Before Sept. 11, the term 'religious travel,' was typically only used to refer to a pilgrimage to Israel, however more churches are developing travel programs as a social outlet, a way to bond members closer together, and as a way to support their training and missions effort. Our tours of Greece and Turkey include historical perspectives on the New Testament Church, like our Footsteps of Paul Cruise Tours but combine traditional vacation relaxation elements. These are increasingly popular as many want a Biblical heritage type of experience but are not comfortable traveling to Israel at this time." says Korngold.

"We are seeing off-the-chart interest in full chartered ship cruises with Christian music artists, speakers and comedians during which the bars and casinos are closed. We are currently offering a groundbreaking "Cruise with a Cause" that will host a full-fledged, stadium crusade on Grand Bahamas Island with top Christian Music artists like NewSong, Sonicflood, Todd Agnew, ZOEgirl, Tait and Josh McDowell as well as a dozen other artists and speakers. This cruise has even been sanctioned by the Bahamian government as the finale to Religious Awareness Month. This cruise embodies the type of vacation experience many Christians are hungry for.

Christian Travel Finder, a division of Travel Network Group, LLC, is a travel agency (CST 2076934-40) located in Seal Beach, California that specializes in developing group cruise and tour programs for churches and organizations. Christian Travel Finder Founder and President Honnie Korngold has nearly 20 years experience developing and overseeing over 6000 Christian conferences and events during her career. Prior to founding Christian Travel Finder in 2003, Honnie served as Director with the Conference Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International at Arrowhead Springs, California.

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