

Josh Newell
Class of '94
MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2025

Josh Newell graduated from MCHS in 1994. While at Madison, he was a varsity football player, a member of the National Honor Society, and involved with many other organizations. After graduation, he attended Indiana University, majoring in business and communications. His dream job was an ESPN announcer. While attending IU, Josh became involved with a campus organization called Campus Crusade for Christ. During his senior year, he traveled to Turkey on a mission trip sponsored by Campus Crusade. After graduating from IU in 1998, he joined a branch of Campus Crusade called the Jesus Film Project. The project's goal was to bring the message of Jesus to people around the world.



This began a 26-year-long (and continuing) career with Campus Crusade. Josh began as part of a team that went to remote places in Africa, working on translating the film into local languages. After a few years, he moved to France with his wife and three children to work with the Campus Crusade team, ministering around the Mediterranean Sea and the Middle East. Five years later, Josh moved his family back to the United States so he could attend the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. After completing his MBA in 2013, he served as Director of the Campus Crusade Marketing and Communications team for five years as he recruited a team that launched a fresh brand strategy, positioning the organization as a media ministry for the 21st century. In 2017, as a co-leader of the U.S. Strategy team, with a new goal, he explored the use of new film content in social media. In 2018, he became the Executive Director of the Jesus Film Project and a Vice President of Campus Crusade. He is responsible for over 400 staff and a multi-million budget. He now travels throughout the U.S. and the world, working with hundreds of organizations that use the Jesus Film in their ministries.

Josh has led The Jesus Film Project from the early days when the movie was shown on a 16mm projector. Tom Meiner, COO of Campus Crusade, describes Josh as a servant leader and visionary. "He has a heart for ministry and always looks for opportunities to serve his team and others." With a unique ability to understand trends and apply those insights to the project, he recruits the right people with the appropriate skills to respond to a need or a market trend. In response to the pandemic, he shifted strategies from an in-person ministry to a digital ministry. The current digital format can be viewed on various digital platforms, including a phone app, anywhere in the world. It has been translated into over 2,200 different languages, making it the "most-seen" movie in the history of the world.

Josh's journey started with success in high school, in both academics and athletics. He found something of interest, and he got involved while in high school and college. His dream job gave him a goal. He pursued the education path required to achieve his dream. He took a risk to travel and live in other countries as a servant leader. All these experiences led to new career opportunities.

Josh's commitment to the Lord gives him the strength to do what needs to be done. His belief gives him tremendous energy to work long hours and take on extra travel because he knows it is his calling. Josh encourages others and can connect easily with anyone he encounters. He genuinely cares for people, and in return, they relate to Josh as a friend and have confidence in him.

Early on, Josh found things he was interested in and got involved. He had a goal, he established a plan, and God has given him a purpose, and together, these are unstoppable.