

**FAO: Mr David Lister
Moriel Ministries USA
Moriel Missions UK**

Date: 7th November 2018

I always make myself available to meet and discuss challenges that life can bring, particularly where conflict may arise and yesterday I replied to a disparaging email from Jacob Prasch with the intent to see if we could meet to discuss recent events – his response was both unhelpful and shameful. To that end I have been counselled to keep my reply to your organisation only to the subject of the production questions raised.

The following information is given in accordance with PACT industry regulations during the period 2006-2010 covering documentary production and distribution.

The Daniel Project television documentary

Mr Prasch was one of 10 participants to be interviewed who claimed a specific knowledge on related subject matter. In accordance with regulations governing the use of interviews within a documentary format for terrestrial television, interviews must be conducted with no payment so as to confirm a non-bias agenda (expenses only are normally covered unless waived).

Payment may only be made to professional presenters or voice-over artists in accordance with the type of contract agreed in writing. Presenters are not deemed expert witnesses but merely actors. Every professional documentary or film project is subject to very strict rules and under no circumstances would a film be acquired by any distributor or broadcaster if the substantial paperwork necessary was incomplete.

After stringent legal processes, productions are acquired by a distributor(s) (they are not sold by the production company) whereby the producers (Studio Scotland Ltd) must sign away all rights but are still liable for all broadcast compliance files, insurance, lawyers, clearance, classification, translation and marketing costs. This is standard procedure. The distributor is the one who leases the production to a broadcaster for a fixed term and agreed rate which we may eventually see a proportion of once all their costs are covered. This can take several years because the remuneration is small and the distributors have to cover the cost of their stand and associated expenses to travel to a film market or festival in order to 'sell' our particular film – amongst the thousands of others that are also vying for attention.

Mr Prasch signed a full release contract form in accordance with 'The Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television' broadcast standards, a copy of which, if requested may only be sent to Mr Prasch at his personal request or a legal body acting on his behalf. If Mr Prasch would like to receive a copy of said document please ask him to send an SAE to our studio with a signed covering letter. This will be dealt with promptly.

The signed contract is with Mr Prasch and not any bodies or groups he is a part of. By law we cannot divulge personal contractual information to a third party. Removal from commercial films is not possible. Studio Scotland has no rights over both productions. This is standard practice.

In regard to Mr Prash's request to share his beliefs within an evangelistic format:

Proselytisation within a TV documentary format will be rejected under European broadcast standards, however, in keeping with this request, this was made possible by Studio Scotland via an 'extras' section available on an approved DVD and on free digital download for The Daniel Project. The distributor at that time 'Mercury Media International Ltd' gave approval (not usual for a distributor) in allowing many churches, and faith based organisations all over the world to use the film as an outreach tool as long as no payments were made – hundreds of showings in churches, halls, hotels, prisons, army camps and universities were granted free licenses. We have a substantial file of emails from churches, pastors, educators and individuals around the world, who have been positively impacted by watching or showing the production. There is also a tiny selection of many hundreds of reviews listed on the official website.

The production was translated to Brazilian Portuguese and Hispanic Spanish for use across South America – and could also be understood by Europeans who didn't understand English - and we also provided English Subtitles for Hard of Hearing. All of that at a cost of many thousands of dollars. Controversial TV documentaries have strict translation guidelines and must be passed once again through the legal, insurance and certification system. Like everything else, this was financed solely by Studio Scotland. We have not recovered the costs for doing this.

With a legally cleared South American DVD master, we have since been able to supply various ministries reaching out to those communities with 100s of DVDs in card folders at the cost of physical production and delivery. Hundreds if not thousands of DVDs have been given away free of charge and our production / mastering house near London has a record of every DVD produced. This is a requirement in regard to library footage licencing as The Daniel Project has over 100 library licences which we must adhere to as another legal requirement.

The Daniel CONNECTION feature film

The Daniel CONNECTION feature film was made for those who would not watch a documentary and has the same aims as The Daniel Project. It has a different distributor, rules and regulations, Studio Scotland Ltd are still thousands of dollars in debt to the distributor and that is before payments can be made to recover costs for production. This is standard for the industry and is clearly understood by professionals within the media. All actors are paid during production in accordance with their agency contracts along with point system benefits after full recovery costs for those eligible. This is a standard practice for cinematic production.

Commercial gain?

Three international broadcasters/distributors and an international DVD distributor (servicing supermarkets and book stores worldwide) asked us to re-edit the documentary and in some cases to incorporate other spiritual beliefs to be more in-line with their broadcast policies, which in turn would have enabled Mercury Media and Studio Scotland to gain financially. We refused and those broadcasters/distribution outlets rejected The Daniel Project. We believed it to be important to remain true to the original format and to have integrity in all our dealings.

In Summary:

Based on an original cable TV /Video resource produced by Stewart and Deborah Menelaws, 'Cup of Trembling- countdown to Armageddon' in 1996, 'The Daniel Project' was without doubt, one of the most ground breaking terrestrial TV documentaries of its time, working within the strict confines imposed on production covering faith based subjects. As a secular project within a secular environment it has touched the lives of millions via a wide range of networks world-wide.

Tragically, in recent years, a number of Christian based distribution outlets regretfully will no longer stock 'The Daniel Project' DVD – and it is Mr Prasch's behaviour and conduct that has been cited as the issue. Sales of the actual DVD are almost non-existent. The documentary itself is currently showing on Amazon Prime TV and was acquired by the multi award winning documentary distributor 'Journeyman Pictures'. All distribution rights belong to them (they acquired Mercury Media resources who went into liquidation owing us royalties). The film continues to touch lives on secular media – and that is who and what it was made for.

Mr Prasch appearing / removal on faith based media:

In regard to Mr Prasch appearing on our free to view subsidiary Global Vision TV at GV247.TV which is a non-profit part of the company but is required to be connected due to licensing contracts with interviews, film, video and imagery, we had already taken steps to remove Mr Prasch. We are still in the process of clearing his image from various files and whilst this will take time, please be assured, we have made that a priority.

Sincerely: Stewart Menelaws

Managing Director
Studio Scotland Ltd