

# FATHER OF LIGHTS

## Documenting the “Father of Lights”: The Aesthetics of a Contemporary US Charismatic-Christian Documentary Film and Its Audience Reception

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In 2012, Chicago-based “Wanderlust Productions” released its 3rd Christian documentary film, *Father of Lights*, and accompanied that release with a film-screening/worship-event-tour in over 40 US and UK churches. Based on an ethnographic study of the film-screening tour, this talk reflects on the uses of documentary filmmaking in contemporary religion and investigates the film’s reception and religious impact. It analyzes *Father of Lights* as a religious media product, including a qualitative study of the audience reception. Based on this material the talk investigates how the audience develops trust in the documentary and identifies three strategies of reception. In this way, the religious use non-fictional media is analyzed as an especially powerful form of ‘making religion effective’.

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