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Documentary Produced by GWU Alum to be Distributed Nationally on April 4

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Office of University Communications

March 28, 2014

Bruce Bowers ('68) Latest Work to Debut on PBS Affiliates Across the Country

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.— When Bruce Bowers began investigating ideas for his latest documentary, he was not expecting to take on an issue of tremendous social significance or to become an advocate for an overhaul of the country's foster care system. Yet, his piece "Without Perfect Answers," which originally aired last October on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) station WTVI-Charlotte, takes a closer look at some of the most inspiring—and the most frustrating—examples within what Bowers believes is a social system with many faults.

"What I like to do is tell stories. And wherever the story leads us, that's what we like to do," Bowers explained. "I didn't intend for it to become a social issue documentary. It just kind of happened. We followed the story, and that's where it went." Little did Bruce know that the story would lead him and his crew overseas to Jerusalem and an Israeli Youth Village.

Recently, Bowers was notified that "Without Perfect Answers" would be made available to PBS stations across the country beginning April 4, and that it was scheduled for statewide broadcast in North Carolina via UNC-TV on April 27 at 6 p.m.

Bowers owns Bowers Media Group, and produced the award-winning documentary "The Blue Ridge Parkway: The Long and Winding Road." As a student at Gardner-Webb before the institution offered a four-year degree, Bowers attended for two years and transferred to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he earned a degree in radio and television motion pictures. He worked as a radio news announcer and later a television reporter which gave him a taste of storytelling on a much smaller scale. He understands that producing documentaries demands an ability to see the bigger picture while weaving together commonalities within a story.

"You go out and you shoot 30 hours of footage, and it's like a gigantic jigsaw puzzle dumped out on the table," he reflected. "Where on earth do you start? What's the first thing you're going to hook on and eventually turn it into an hour? So it's extraordinarily complicated."

The inception for his latest work began while Bowers was at a luncheon in Charlotte, N.C. He was asked if he knew about The Crossnore School, a boarding school founded in the middle of the North Carolina mountains in 1913 to serve impoverished children of the region. Intrigued, he scheduled an interview with the school's headmistress and the result is

the documentary “Without Perfect Answers.” Bowers’ own perception of the foster care system in the U.S. dramatically changed after uncovering the difficult truth related to the needs of children in protective custody.

“I’d like to see a grassroots movement start to take shape out of this if at all possible,” he revealed. “Just to get this issue on the front burner for people who have a passion for children to get involved.”

Since 1989 *Bowers Media Group* has produced broadcast quality video presentations for corporate, industrial, medical and other clients with an important story to tell. Visit bowersmediagroup.com for more information.

The mission of The Crossnore School is to provide a Christian sanctuary of hope and healing where students in need rise above their circumstances and excel both in school and in life. Their vision is to positively transform the lives of children from families in crisis by breaking generational cycles and creating a hope and future through education, work and service. More information is available at crossnoreschool.org.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University blends a liberal arts core curriculum with more than 55 major and minor professional programs of study, a comprehensive academic experience that flows from our Christian commitment to intellectual freedom, service and leadership.