

Christian Mom Makes \$5K/M

Christian Mother makes \$5K a month from the comfort of her home. Bible.org

Bob Dylan Memorabilia

Music Memorabilia & Signed Posters Superb Gifts for Music Aficionados www.AmericanRoyalArts.com

Jesus Loves You

Here is a Prayer That Can Change Your Life www.Jesus2020.com

Ads by Google



Tuesday, February 24, 2009

More on Bob Dylan's 'Jesus years'

Posted by peter

Free Updates

Let us tell you when new posts are added!

Email:

Click to subscribe via RSS

Navigation

Goldmine Blog Home

Categories

- February, 2009 (14)
- January, 2009 (12)
- December, 2008 (12)
- November, 2008 (13)
- October, 2008 (11)
- September, 2008 (12)
- August, 2008 (11)
- July, 2008 (5)
- June, 2008 (7)
- May, 2008 (8)
- April, 2008 (10)
- March, 2008 (9)
- February, 2008 (7)
- January, 2008 (6)
- December, 2007 (6)
- November, 2007 (6)
- October, 2007 (6)
- September, 2007 (4)
- August, 2007 (8)
- July, 2007 (10)
- June, 2007 (9)

One of the real coups producer/director Joel Gilbert pulled off in his 2008 documentary "Inside Bob Dylan's Jesus Years: Busy Being Born ... Again!" was getting Pastor Bill Dwyer of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church to talk on camera about the folk legend's religious awakening.

Dwyer eventually agreed to be interviewed for the

film, which delves into Dylan's conversion and discusses the impact it had Dylan's so-called "Jesus Years," a period, starting in the mid-'70s and extending into the early '80s, that saw him release two of his most controversial albums *Slow Train Coming* and *Saved*. It's interesting how reluctant Dwyer and other church officials were to talk about Dylan.

"Everyone I approached was willing to speak with me, except the major figure of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church, which included founding Pastors Gulliksen, Bill Dwyer, and Larry Myers," says Gilbert. "For four months, I approached on these potential interview subjects but encountered resistance because of policy in the late '70s to protect Dylan's privacy so he could grow in his faith without press intrusion. I found these pastors were still playing the same protective game protecting Dylan's privacy — there had been no reason for them to change approach despite the passage of years. It was only by assuring them that the project sought to explain the history and context of Dylan's religious music in the times, the Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church, the evangelical movement in the late '70s, the born-again experiences, 'Jews for Jesus,' and so on that Bill Dwyer agreed to open up on the subject for the first time. Pastor Dwyer explained that Dylan, to his amazement, learned the Bible very quickly, and his lyrics in *Slow Train Coming* displayed a fantastic grasp of the message of the Bible."

As confounding as Dylan's radical transformation was to the general public and longtime fans, his inner circle didn't seem quite as mystified by it. About Jerry Wexler, who produced *Slow Train Coming*, Gilbert says, "Jerry Wexler was an atheist Jew, and had no interest in the 'Jesus thing.'" Wexler recounted to

