



JESUS RACING- A MOST SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

- **1 million live spectators.**
- **A TV audience of 30 million worldwide.**
- **30,000 school children**
- **Tens of thousands of Christian's across Australia**

That is the impact Jesus Racing will have in 2008.

Jesus racing is a most unusual Christian program.

Andrew 'Fishtail' Fisher drives the 'Jesus. All about life V8 Ute' in the Yokohama V8 Ute motor racing series. This is part of the high profile V8 Supercar program, which is held right across Australia.

It's Andrew's eighth year in motorsport and his second in the V8 Utes.

Finishing fourth last year and being named Rookie of the Year, as well as his unusual choice of livery, has opened the door to Andrew becoming a sought-after speaker at schools, churches and functions right across the country.

The Jesus Ute has a massive 'Jesus' Logo on the Front, sides and rear of the car.

"It's a bold move," says Fisher. "You really can't miss it!

"I was originally going to put a fish on the car," he says, "but my wife Annmarie said 'if you're going to do it, why not go all the way?' so I did!

"We then set out to look for a motor racing series that was the most diametrically opposed to our faith, and we found the Utes! They appeal to the quintessential Aussie bloke, and are closely associated with beer and calendar girls. It's a shock to see the Jesus Ute amongst all that, and we felt we could make an impact."

Fisher says most people accept what they're trying to achieve, but a few teams do consider them 'unusual'.

"We're not high brow religious types. We're practical people who have a Christian faith," he says. "I want people to see that having faith doesn't make you a freak, or mean you can't do fun things, it just means you do things a certain way, and you do them with integrity."

"There's more to faith than going to church on Sundays. It's about life. I want people

to know that Christians can win, lose and knock into other cars on the racetrack too!

Fisher and Jesus Racing Team pastor Steve Peach have put together a series of fast-paced, professional and challenging presentations, which engage adults with messages of integrity, and challenges young people on the issue of courage.

The Jesus Racing Team also has a replica race car, which they take on the road as part of their 'Schools Program'.

Fisher says the schools program has been incredibly successful and in-demand.

"Currently we have 140 schools lined up to hear us speak," he says. "We estimate we will speak to in excess of 30,000 teenagers this year.

"The Jesus Racing Team is a positive role model for young people, which is not about to be damaged by drugs, alcohol or violence."

Heath the Chaplain at Gunnedah High School says it was great when the Jesus Racing Team boys turned up and revved the car's engine.

"All the students crowded around for a look," he says. "Then Andrew signed and handed-out posters for the students. It was a great experience."

Parents around the country are enthusiastic about the values displayed by Jesus Racing, with many commenting on the way Fisher blends his family with motor sport.

He's a great example of a regular guy, living his passions.

As if life was not complicated enough, Fisher (who works to support his family rather than depending on the ministry) is up for an even greater challenge this year.

He's been offered a drive in a 'Jesus Supercar' around Mt Panorama, Bathurst, across the second weekend in October.

The Supercar will also bear the 'Jesus' livery, which will take him into a whole new market.

But getting a new car on the racetrack is hard work.

The Supercar drives differently to the V8 Ute Fisher is used to, which means more time on the track, familiarising himself with the new vehicle.

The Jesus Racing team has the full support of Bible Society NSW 's Jesus. All about life. campaign.

This is a massive multi-level advertising and PR campaign which has already run in several states, with WA scheduled for later this year and NSW in 2009.

Like any ministry, funding is tight, and the Jesus Racing program also depends on community contributions.

“We have a program called the 300/600 Club,” says Fisher.

“The idea is 300 people give \$600 or 600 give \$300, so we raise \$180,000, which is about what it costs us to run the car.

This does not cover the Schools Ministry, which now takes up 3 days per week and employs Steve Peach as a Pastor.

The total budget for the racing (with some testing and the schools program) is around \$275,000 p.a, however Fisher is quick to point out without the racing, the ministry would have no relevance, and they would not be impacting 30,000 students across Australia each year.

“Christian individuals and businesses have supported us significantly, because people love Jesus’ name being out there, on TV and in the schools in such a high profile way,” says Fisher.

“We always need more supporters and one of the exciting initiatives has been promoting supporters of other ministries on the Jesus Ute and or Supercar.

“This not only helps to promote that ministry, it also helps to promote the name of Jesus, AND supports the schools ministry at the same time. That’s three benefits for the price of one, which is not a bad return on investment!”

For more information on the Jesus Racing team go to
www.Jesusracing.com.au

Or contact Steve Peach on 0419 564 050