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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grammy-Winner Michael W. Smith Discusses Addiction and Recovery on IAmSecond.com Contemporary Christian singer shares story of drugs, fame and salvation in film

DALLAS, Dec. 10, 2010 – Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter [Michael W. Smith](#) tells of how he overcame addiction in his inspiring testimony released on [I am Second](#), a website featuring the video stories of personal struggle, transformation and hope of celebrities and everyday people who put Jesus first in their lives.

Michael W. Smith's film premiered this week, giving insight into the man who has been acclaimed as one of the best-selling and most influential artists in contemporary Christian music.

"All I wanted to do was pick up the guitar and sing praise songs," said Michael W. Smith of his passion for music at an early age. "God had a calling in my life and music was a part of that."

After moving to Nashville to become a songwriter, Michael W. Smith says that drugs became a common temptation while performing at after-hours bars. "I began to be enticed that I could play with fire, and I wouldn't get burned."

He describes the guilt after smoking his first joint, which was a gateway into other drugs such as cocaine and LSD.

"You lose perspective, your compass disappears, and you don't realize it's all going down until it's too late," said Michael W. Smith.

His struggle with drug abuse continued for three years until a near-death experience, when he snorted what he thought was cocaine.

"That's when I prayed to God to do what He had to do to get my attention, because I needed to be rescued," he said. In November of 1979, he was rescued on the floor of his Nashville apartment.

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“I was crawled up on the floor of my apartment just weeping, and I began to cry out for God,” said Michael W. Smith. “[He] came and wept with me on that floor, and it all changed.”

Eight months later, Michael W. Smith landed a songwriting contact that led to his first record deal. Now, when he looks back on his addiction and recovery, he realizes that only God could have orchestrated any of it.

“I know where my hope lies, and it’s not in being a rock star,” said Michael W. Smith. “The greatest peace is that I know who I am. I am a son of God. My identity crisis is solved.”

Launched in the Dallas-Fort Worth market in December 2008, I am Second’s videos cover a variety of personal struggles, including abuse, addictions, pride, eating disorders, broken families and the search for success and meaning in life. Since its launch, the movement has spread virally across the globe, garnering more than 14 million page views and 3.3 million visits from 214 countries/regions.

Dallas-based e3 Partners launched I am Second in Orlando September 2010 and plans to debut in additional cities over the next year. In Orlando and Dallas-Fort Worth, the company complements the website with creative, targeted billboard, TV, radio, and kiosk advertising. For more information and to view Michael W. Smith’s film, visit <http://www.iamsecond.com>.

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Note to Editors: For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Kristin Cole or Steve Yount via phone at 972.267.1111 or via e-mail at Kristin@alarryross.com or Steve@alarryross.com. Additional information about the I am Second campaign is available at www.iamsecond.com/media.

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