

## ***Weapons of the Spirit***

newly remastered 30<sup>th</sup>-anniversary edition

a film by Pierre Sauvage (93 min.)

[weaponsofthespirit.com](http://weaponsofthespirit.com)

**DURING A SPIRITUAL PLAGUE,  
THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY OF GOODNESS!**

"I've seen *Weapons of the Spirit* several times, but what is striking about re-watching it is that the questions it asks—both of its subjects and of its viewers—always feel profoundly relevant. Today, as you will see, is no exception."

Samantha Power, then U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, introducing a sneak preview screening of the remastered edition of the documentary at the American Mission to the U.N.

"An inquiry into the nature of goodness and a personal odyssey. Moving and provocative. Enormously uplifting. What an extraordinary story."

David Ansen, *Newsweek*

"The truth does not change, and that is why the answers worked out long ago can help you find solutions to the challenges of our time."

Rep. John Lewis, in the essay sent to the *New York Times* two days before his death in 2020.

***Weapons of the Spirit* recounts the saga of the village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France, during the Nazi occupation—the mountain Huguenot community that provided the most dense, long-lasting and successful haven of refuge from the Holocaust anywhere in occupied Europe. In that village and the surrounding plateau, some 5,000 Jews were sheltered—by some 5,000 Christians.**

This is a story Emmy-winning documentary filmmaker Pierre Sauvage was born to tell: born and protected in Le Chambon, he returned just in time to chronicle and probe the event—with the help of those, Christians and Jews, who lived it. Upon its original release, the documentary received rave reviews, a dozen awards, theatrical bookings in over fifty markets (seven weeks in New York, Los Angeles, etc.), and two prime-time broadcasts on PBS hosted by Bill Moyers.

While the film is about a collective experience and gains additional resonance from being seen with an audience—hopefully in the not too distant future!—the Chambon Foundation, producer and distributor of the film, is temporarily making the newly remastered 30th-anniversary edition of the film freely available to a select few viewers. Video-on-demand distribution is scheduled to begin Sept. 13, 2020.

It was while stranded in the area of Le Chambon at that time that writer Albert Camus worked on his profoundly relevant allegorical novel *The Plague*. As we strive today to fight a physical plague, as polarization and demonization of the "other" increases, as a great yearning for renewed solidarity remains unfulfilled, as antisemitic incidents become more numerous, as many Christians seek to build on their faith while religious faith recurrently proclaims itself in violence, as roundups and deportations continue to loom and communities face wrestling with the idea of providing sanctuary, as the power of nonviolence is increasingly recognized, as we begin focusing at last on the responsibility of bystanders,

**IS IT NOT ESPECIALLY VALUABLE TODAY...**

— to explore "good trouble, necessary trouble," to learn from people who were incapable of standing idly by,

**TO PROBE THE WEAPONS OF THE SPIRIT?**

"An absolutely extraordinary story about matter-of-fact heroes. In a hundred years, it is likely to be timely still."

Tom Shales, *Washington Post*

"A very fine documentary about some people who managed, miraculously, to overlook their tribal and religious differences and just see their common plight as human beings."

R. Crumb, cartoonist

"*Incredible*—as compelling and exciting as fiction. A film that will be around for a long time."

Charles Champlin, *Los Angeles Times*

Pierre Sauvage's other documentaries include: the Emmy-winning *Yiddish: the Mother Tongue*; *Not Idly By—Peter Bergson, America and the Holocaust*; *We Were There: Christians and the Holocaust*; and the upcoming *And Crown Thy Good: Varian Fry and the Refugee Crisis, 1940-41*.

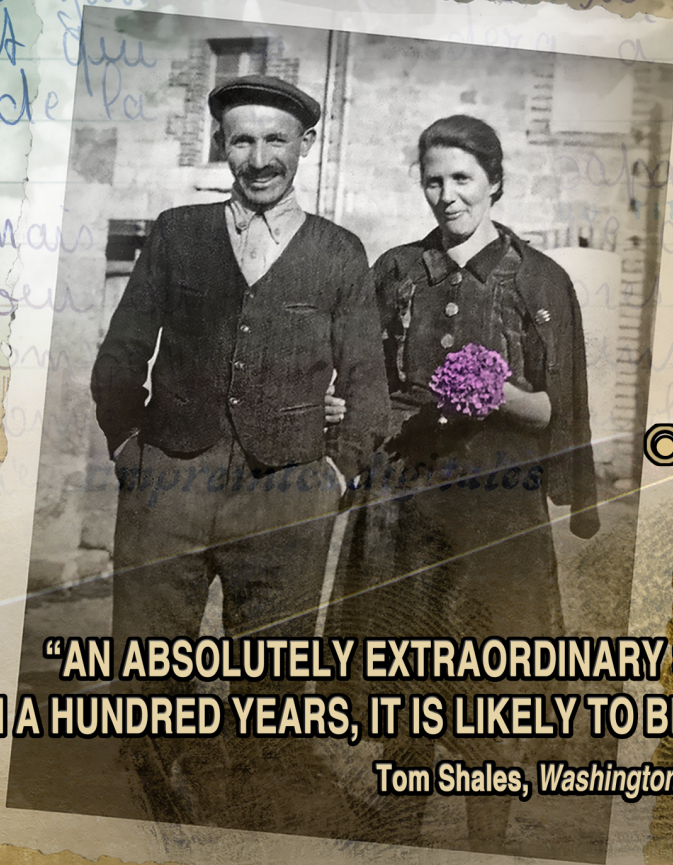


# Weapons of the Spirit

now remastered in high definition

a film by  
Pierre Sauvage

During a spiritual plague,  
there was a conspiracy of goodness.



© Le Chambon, France

**"AN ABSOLUTELY EXTRAORDINARY STORY.  
IN A HUNDRED YEARS, IT IS LIKELY TO BE TIMELY STILL."**

Tom Shales, *Washington Post*

