

# UISBC eNews

SPECIAL EDITION: BILLY GRAHAM 2018

## Thank you, Dr. Graham

This past week we were sad to hear the news of Dr. Billy Graham passing away in his sleep. Dr. Graham was a man who had dedicated his life to preaching the gospel. He led his ministry to impact almost every country in the world. It is amazing that one could be used of God to make such a global impact for eternity.

My favorite story is how God used the Billy Graham Crusade in Los Angeles to rescue the life of Louis Zamperini, an Olympic athlete and World War II veteran. The book *"Unbroken"*, a biography about Zamperini, is powerful and one I had both of our boys read. We also watched the movie. I purchased the Billy Graham documentary on Zamperini to tell the rest of the story in Louie's own words. Lou's brother was my dad's high school track coach in Long Beach which makes the story even that more personal for my family. Billy Graham touched hundreds of millions with the gospel.

My personal experience with Billy Graham was in 1987 when a group of us from Logan doing college ministry took 40 international students to the Billy Graham Crusade in Denver. What a great experience! Many of the students that went with us accepted Jesus. Thank you, Dr. Graham, for your faithful preaching that will continue to bear fruit through technology, until Christ returns!

Yes, on the day that Billy Graham went home to the Lord I listened to one of the messages he preached at the Denver Crusade. Thirty plus years later it was just as impactful as when I heard him preach it to the full stadium in Denver!

*Rob Lee*

## Special Local Prayer Request

It is with great sadness that we inform you of Pastor Mac Edwards' passing. We will miss him terribly. We are confident and comforted that he is in the very presence of God free of pain. Your support and love the last few years meant the world to him. He loved people and would give anyone the last dollar in his pocket or the very shirt off his back.

His services will be as follows:

### Viewing

Friday, March 2nd from 4-8pm  
Gillies Funeral Chapel  
634 East 200 South  
Brigham City, UT 84302

### Funeral

Saturday, March 3rd 11:00 am  
First Baptist Church of Brigham City  
617 West 500 South  
Brigham City, UT 84302  
There will be a luncheon following the service.

<https://www.facebook.com/macedwardsfundraiser/photos/a.469999826489517.1073741828.467960263360140/998459833643511/?type=3>

# BILLY GRAHAM

(1918-2018)



## Thank You Billy Graham

Like many of you, I am deeply saddened to hear news of the death of Billy Graham today. He was a friend, a colleague, and mentor to me, and I will miss him dearly.

When reports of his declining health made headlines recently, I reflected on a trip I took with Nellie Jo to visit with Mr. Graham at his home in Montreat, North Carolina in the fall of 2009. Though it was not my first time to meet with the famed evangelist, this visit seemed especially poignant at the time. Perhaps the poignancy of the moment related to the visit in his home. I had never been to the mountaintop cabin that he and his family called home for so many years.

It was my first visit with Mr. Graham since his beloved Ruth had passed away two years prior. Her photos and keepsakes were visible throughout the home. This visit was certainly different for that reason. Still again, my time with Billy Graham was poignant because he was in his twilight years. He knew it. So did I. Sadly, this would be my last visit with him.

### LESSONS I LEARNED ON MY VISIT

I also knew that when I meet with people like Mr. Graham, there is always an opportunity to learn from them. So in the visit I had with Mr. Graham, I wanted once again to glean from his life, his wisdom, and his experience. My quest was not disappointing. To the contrary, I came away realizing that I had been on the mountaintop in more ways than one.

Here are five simple but profound lessons I learned from that visit with Billy Graham.

**1. A life pleasing to the Lord is a life of integrity.** The name of Billy Graham inevitably reminds us of integrity. His was a life that did not compromise morally. It was a life that was above reproach financially. And his was a life of incredible honesty. Leadership at any level cannot begin to function well unless the leader has integrity.

**2. Our first ministry is to our family.** The home of Billy Graham was a home of love. It was the place where Billy and Ruth Graham raised children and welcomed grandchildren. At one point in my visit with Mr. Graham, he pointed to a portrait of his late wife Ruth. With tears in his eyes he said, "I can't wait to see her in heaven." Today, he has that joy. Thank you, sir, for reminding me again of the priority of family.

*Rainer cont. on page 3*

## From Franklin Graham

Dear Friend,

My father, Billy Graham, went into the presence of the Lord on February 21, 2018.

The Bible tells us in Revelation 14:13: *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ... that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them"* (NKJV).

Many have said that his death ends an era, but he would be the first to say that when God's ambassadors die in Christ, the Lord raises up others, because the preaching of the Gospel will go forward until the end of the age. God's blessing continues as He opens doors for the Gospel around the world. BGEA remains committed to preach the Word in season and out of season across the globe.

My siblings and I would appreciate your prayers in the days ahead as we honor a man who served the Lord with his life, loved his family, and was always grateful for God's faithful people who supported him in the work of the ministry in Jesus' Name.

As we lay to rest this very public ambassador, please pray with us that the testimony he leaves behind will touch many lives and point them to salvation in Jesus Christ. My father's journey of faith on earth has ended. He has been reunited with my mother and has stepped into the eternal joy of Heaven in the presence of his Savior, in whom he placed his hope.

If you would like to know more about my father's life, share a memory, or read public visitation details, please visit [BillyGraham.org](http://BillyGraham.org).

God bless you, and thank you for your prayers for our family and the staff of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Sincerely,  
Franklin Graham

**3. Listen to critics, but don't dwell on them.** In my position, I am subject to criticisms more often than I like. Indeed I am pretty thin-skinned, so it is an area in which I constantly struggle. So I asked Mr. Graham how, in a lifetime of international ministry and scrutiny, he dealt with the constant stream of criticisms. He smiled at me and simply said, "I ignored most of them." While he never implied that he was blameless, he knew that dwelling on criticisms would distract and harm his ministry. So he simply moved on.

**4. Humility is one of the greatest virtues of leaders.** He counseled presidents and kings. He preached to millions. Volumes have been written about his life and ministry. Some have seen him to be the world's most influential person of the second half of the twentieth century. Yet in each of the times I was with him, I witnessed one of the most humble men I've ever known. Billy Graham never thought too highly of himself. What an incredible example he was.

**5. All that really matters is Jesus.** Mr. Graham preached about Him for most of his life. The message of the gospel was the heart of his ministry. He understood the brevity of life. And he knew, when it is all said and done, our relationship with Jesus Christ is all that really matters.

These lessons are but a sampling of what he has undoubtedly contributed to the millions and millions of lives he has impacted through his ministry.

#### IT WAS ALL ABOUT JESUS

And as I reflect on his life and ministry, I know I will never come close to becoming the man he was. Still, I can learn. And you can learn too.

We can learn to love our family and others with a greater love. We can learn to have a greater humility, understanding that we are nothing without Christ. We can learn that the simple things in life are those that really matter. And we can learn that this life is not about us.

It's all about Jesus.

That was the life of Billy Graham. It was all about Jesus. That is the type of life I desire to have.

Thank you, Mr. Graham.

Thank you for your time. Thank you for your ministry. Thank you for your integrity. Thank you for your humility.

Thank you for your life.

Thom Rainer; [thomrainer.com](http://thomrainer.com), February 21, 2018



# A Simple Casket for Billy Graham, Pastor to Millions

By BGEA

A simple casket for a simple man with a profoundly simple message of God's love: That's what visitors will see when they pay their respects to Billy Graham, the North Carolina-born evangelist who traveled the globe during his lifetime sharing the Gospel with some 215 million people.

The pine plywood casket, crafted in 2006 by inmates at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana, is lined with a mattress pad. On top rests a simple wooden cross the prisoners nailed into place.

The plain wooden caskets caught Franklin Graham's eye during a 2005 preaching engagement at Angola. That's when he saw the inmates hard at work crafting them, and he soon learned why. The initiative began when then-warden Burl Cain discovered many of the poorer inmates were being buried in cardboard boxes.

As a result, Cain had the inmates construct plywood caskets for themselves and others who couldn't afford one. In addition to making the caskets, the prisoners—many of them former hardened criminals who are now committed Christians—also pray over them.

Franklin Graham was struck by the simple and natural beauty of these caskets and requested the prisoners design and build two of them for his parents. Billy and Ruth Grahams' caskets were built by inmate Richard "Grasshopper" Liggett, with the help of others. Their names are burned into the wood.

"I liked the simple coffin with a cross on top," Franklin Graham said in 2006.

While the Grahams requested no special upgrades to the caskets, which cost around \$200 to make, there were some slight modifications made to facilitate transportation to multiple locations. Mr. Graham's casket will be transported from Asheville, North Carolina, to nearby Charlotte this Saturday. He will lie in repose at the Billy Graham Homeplace on the grounds of the Billy Graham Library on Monday and Tuesday, before going to lie in honor at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 28 and March 1.

On Friday, March 2, a private funeral service will be held in Charlotte, where Mr. Graham will be buried beside his wife in the Prayer Garden of the Billy Graham Library. Ruth Bell Graham, who often visited prisoners and fed many in her home after their release, was buried in her Angola-crafted casket in 2007.

In 2008, Franklin Graham visited Angola again, this time to dedicate a prisoner-built, privately funded chapel. Prison chaplain Jim Rentz shared the following memory during the service.

"I want to tell you what Grasshopper said when he made Billy's casket. He said, 'Billy Graham is a simple man who preached a simple message. He must be buried in a simple casket.'"

# Billy Graham's Southern Baptist ties highlighted

by David Roach

MONTREAT, N.C. (BP) -- While Billy Graham was widely known for working across denominational lines, he also was more involved in his own denomination -- the Southern Baptist Convention -- than many may realize.

Graham, who died Feb. 21, spoke at 13 SBC annual meetings between 1951 and 1995, served as a trustee of two SBC entities, and, including references to two institutions and a professorship named in his honor, his name has been mentioned in every SBC Annual since 1951.

He even was nominated for SBC president in 1963 -- though then-convention president Herschel Hobbs ruled Graham could not be considered for office that year because he was not an SBC messenger.

Graham "has an interesting variety of denominational ties," said Tom Johnston, a Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor and author of "Examining Billy Graham's Theology of Evangelism." But "among the Southern Baptists he found a home of warmth and welcome for his evangelistic gift."

Raised in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Graham became a Southern Baptist in 1937, receiving baptism at East Palatka (Fla.) Baptist Church along with new believers saved at a revival he had preached, Johnston,

professor of evangelism at Midwestern, told Baptist Press.

Graham went on to hold membership at Curtis Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga.; First Baptist Church in Dallas for 55 years; and most recently First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C., according to BP reports.

The first of 67 consecutive years Graham was named in the SBC Annuals -- record books published by the convention -- came in 1951, when the evangelist addressed the SBC annual meeting in San Francisco on "the need for revival."

In a handful of those 67 years, the only mentions of Graham were the endowed chair and school of missions, evangelism and ministry named for him at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. But at the vast majority of their annual meetings, Southern Baptists mentioned Graham in motions, resolutions, reports of his crusades, sermons and announcements of his service on boards and committees.

Graham told the SBC at its 1995 Atlanta meeting, "Many of the great Southern Baptist leaders encouraged me from the beginning of my ministry when they weren't even sure I was a Southern Baptist ... I remember Dr. R.G. Lee and J.D. Gray and Jimmy Morgan and Herschel Hobbs and Duke McCall and W.A. Criswell and many others -- I could go down the line -- that encouraged me from the very beginning," according to a

transcript of his address.

His friendship with Hobbs was evident in 1970, when Graham made a surprise visit to an elderly woman in an Oklahoma City nursing home at Hobbs' request, BP reported.

Only two of Graham's addresses to the SBC -- 1979 and 1987 -- came during the height of the convention's Conservative Resurgence, and Graham made a point of not taking sides.

He said in 1987, "I have determined that as an evangelist I do not want to get into a denominational dispute that in my mind is a combination of theological differences and personality clashes."

Two years earlier, however, Graham did find himself briefly in the middle of the conflict when a message he intended as a private communication with then-SBC President Charles Stanley was made public. Graham conveyed to Stanley that if he were a messenger, he would vote for Stanley's reelection -- to the surprise of Stanley's moderate opponents.

Graham later clarified the reason for his vote would be that the convention customarily granted presidents a second one-year term.

A 1979 missions-themed sermon to the SBC culminated with more than 1,200 annual meeting attendees registering decisions to, as Graham put it in his

*Southern Baptist cont. on page 5*

## U.S. Presidents Honor Their Pastor and Friend, Billy Graham

During his lifetime, Billy Graham met with 13 U.S. presidents. Commonly known as the "pastor to presidents," many of the nation's leaders looked to him for spiritual guidance and prayer, and thought of him as a good friend. Several have shared personal stories of their time with him. Since his passing, numerous presidents have expressed their condolences.

### **President Donald Trump:**

Melania and I join millions of people around the world in mourning the passing of Billy Graham. Our prayers are with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all who worked closely with Reverend Graham in his lifelong ministry.

Billy's acceptance of Jesus Christ around his seventeenth birthday not only changed his life—it changed our country and the world. He was one of the towering figures of the last 100 years—an American hero whose life and leadership truly earned him the title "God's Ambassador."

Billy's unshakeable belief in the power of God's word to

transform hearts gave hope to all who listened to his simple message: "God loves you." He carried this message around the world through his crusades, bringing entire generations to faith in Jesus Christ.

In the wake of the September 11th attacks in 2001, America turned to Billy Graham at the National Cathedral, who told us, "God can be trusted, even when life seems at its darkest." Reverend Graham would be the first to say that he did not do it alone. Before her passing, his wife Ruth was by his side through it all—a true partner, a wonderful mother, and a fellow missionary soul. He also built an international team and institution that will continue to carry on Christ's message. Melania and I were privileged to get to know Reverend Graham and his extraordinary family over the last several years, and we are deeply grateful for their love and support.

Billy Graham was truly one of a kind. Christians and people of all faiths and backgrounds will miss him dearly. We are thinking of him today, finally at home in Heaven.

*Presidents cont. on page 5*

message, "go where God wants you to go, and be what he wants you to be."

Graham served as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) in the late 1950s and early 1960s, according to SBC Annuals, and a trustee of the SBC's Radio and Television Commission in the late 1960s.

In 1972, Graham wrote to then-FMB executive secretary Baker James Cauthen that "no mission board in the world compares with the effectiveness of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Graham said of the Cooperative Program in 1969, "No other denomination has devised a better plan for supporting the total missions program," BP reported at the time.

He was elected to preach the 1961 convention sermon but did not deliver

that message because he was in the midst of a crusade in London and hospitalized with illness, according to SBC Annuals.

The convention elected Graham as one of its representatives on the Baptist Joint Committee in 1962.

SBC entities where Graham did not serve as a trustee also counted him as a friend.

Southern Seminary is "the sole institution to receive authorization by Graham to use his name for its graduate school," according to a 2014 issue of Southern Seminary Magazine. Graham spoke at the inauguration of Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. in 1993.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary counts Graham as an honorary life member of the Southwestern Advisory Council, BP reported in 1997.

Graham's relationship with the Home

Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) was evidenced by a visit to HMB offices in 1973 and an address at an HMB conference in 1985, BP reported.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission presented Graham with its Distinguished Service Award in 1983 and 2007.

Johnston, of Midwestern Seminary, said Graham's broad "appeal across denominations" might have caused the evangelist "not to overly emphasize his work as a Southern Baptist." Still, Graham "was very grateful for the evangelistic ethos of the Southern Baptist Convention, and he was grateful for being a part of such a wonderful group of Christians."

*Reprinted from Baptist Press (www.baptistpress.com), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.*

## The Pastor to Presidents



Top: The first president who met with Mr. Graham, Harry Truman. Middle: President Ronald Reagan presented Billy Graham with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Below: 2007 dedication of the Billy Graham Library with Bush, Carter, and Clinton.



### *Presidents cont...*

#### **President Barack Obama:**

Billy Graham was a humble servant who prayed for so many—and who, with wisdom and grace, gave hope and guidance to generations of Americans.

#### **President George W. Bush:**

A great man, a humble servant, and a shepherd to millions has passed on. Billy Graham was a consequential leader. He had a powerful, captivating presence and a keen mind. He was full of kindness and grace. His love for Christ and his gentle soul helped open hearts to the Word, including mine. Laura and I are thankful for the life of Billy Graham, and we send our heartfelt condolences to the Graham family.

#### **President Bill Clinton:**

Hillary and I are saddened by the passing of our friend Billy Graham, one of the most important religious leaders in American history. His powerful words and the conviction they carried touched countless hearts and minds.

I will never forget the first time I saw him, 60 years ago in Little Rock, during the school integration struggle. He filled a football stadium with a fully integrated audience, reminding them that we all come before God as equals, both in our imperfection and our absolute claim to amazing grace.

Later as Governor, in the White House, and afterward, I saw him live that faith

fully in the constant kindness, encouragement, and counsel he extended to Hillary and me.

Billy has finished his long good race, leaving our world a better place and claiming his place in glory.

#### **President George H.W. Bush:**

Billy Graham was America's pastor. His faith in Christ and his totally honest evangelical spirit inspired people across the country and around the world. I think Billy touched the hearts of not only Christians, but people of all faiths, because he was such a good man. I was privileged to have him as a personal friend...He was a mentor to several of my children, including the former president of the United States. We will miss our good friend forever.

#### **President Jimmy Carter:**

Rosalynn and I are deeply saddened to learn of the death of the Reverend Billy Graham. Tirelessly spreading a message of fellowship and hope, he shaped the spiritual lives of tens of millions of people worldwide. Broad-minded, forgiving, and humble in his treatment of others, he exemplified the life of Jesus Christ by constantly reaching out for opportunities to serve. He had an enormous influence on my own spiritual life, and I was pleased to count Reverend Graham among my advisers and friends.

# Billy Graham, dead at 99, in 'the presence of God'

by Baptist Press Staff

MONTREAT, N.C. (BP) -- Legendary evangelist Billy Graham -- whose preaching may have been heard by more people than anyone in Christian history -- died today (Feb. 21). He was 99.

During 80 years of ministry, Graham's down-to-earth, homespun sermons filled stadiums across the world, leading to the salvation of untold millions. Ordained a Southern Baptist minister, he was a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Dallas before joining First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C., in 2008. Graham preached in person to more than 210 million people in 185 countries and in all 50 U.S. states, according to ministry statistics.

Steve Gaines, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said, "Billy Graham is with Jesus. He has seen and talked with our beloved Savior. May the awareness of his death result in many people hearing the Gospel and being converted to Jesus Christ!"

Gaines, pastor of the Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church, said Graham is "the nearest thing to a true prophet that Christians have had in the past century. He was a man of integrity, simplicity, love and evangelistic fervency.... He was a legendary man of God, and every born again Christian will miss him. He was converted to Christ in 1934 at an evangelistic crusade in Charlotte, N.C., led by evangelist Mordecai Ham. He soon felt the call to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the world has never been the same."

Frank S. Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee, stated, "Along with countless others, I mourn today for the passing of Billy Graham. As I came to Christ as a young man out of a non-Christian home, he became a mentor to me from afar. I admired his preaching, his life and his integrity. I told him so years ago when I got to meet with him. Heaven is a richer place today.

"For three-quarters of a century, he has been a faithful ambassador for Christ, seeking to reconcile men and women to God through faith in Jesus Christ," Page said. "He has borne witness for Christ without distinction, sharing the Gospel with the world's most powerful leaders and with the oppressed, urging the wealthiest and the most impoverished alike to find their hope in Christ alone."

Graham preached at the SBC's annual meeting a number of times, beginning in 1951 in San Francisco and most recently in 1999 in Atlanta. He lent his name to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism. And he received the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's Distinguished Service Award in 1983 and 2007 for his contributions to the Kingdom of God.

In his final years, prayer was Graham's chief ministry, his son Franklin wrote to friends and supporters, adding, "He looks forward to reports of what God is doing around the world. He always responds by saying, 'Praise the Lord,' as he points upward."

One of Graham's final video messages, released in 2014, included his expression of longing for heaven.

"I've found during the lot of years in my life when I've had

*His Life cont. on page 7*

# The Far-Reaching Impact of Billy Graham's Ministry

By LifeWay Research Staff

Almost 70 years after he began his public ministry, Billy Graham continued to impact the faith of millions with almost half of all Protestant churchgoers saying they have watched one of his sermons on television.

"Billy Graham was one of the greatest evangelists the Christian faith has ever known," said LifeWay Christian Resources President and CEO Thom S. Rainer. "Throughout his life, it was obvious he wanted the focus to be not on himself but on one thing: the cross of Jesus Christ."

A recent LifeWay Research survey found Graham's wide-ranging ministry influenced churchgoers through a variety of means.

Two-thirds of Protestant churchgoers had some contact with Graham's ministry, according to LifeWay Research (see graphic of these stats on page 7):

- 48 percent watched a Billy Graham sermon on television.
- 18 percent listened to one of his sermons on the radio.
- 15 percent read one of his books.
- 14 percent read a Billy Graham newspaper column.
- 11 percent attended a Billy Graham crusade.
- 8 percent watched a Billy Graham sermon online.

"While Billy Graham became famous through stadium-filled crusades," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research, "he actually shared the good news of Jesus Christ with more people through TV, radio and print."

Only 4 percent of churchgoers said they "have no idea who Billy Graham is."

In a 2010 survey of Protestant pastors, LifeWay Research found Graham to be far and away the most influential living pastor at that time.

"Billy Graham was a gifted communicator in sharing the gospel," McConnell said. "His greatest legacy may be the number of Christians he mobilized to join him in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ."

Rainer, founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said Graham's legacy is secure because of the focus of his ministry.

"I am saddened to hear the news of the passing of Billy Graham today," Rainer said. "The message of the gospel was at the heart of his ministry. He understood the brevity of life. And he knew, when all is said and done, our relationship with Jesus Christ is all that really matters."

His Life cont...

sicknesses and been in the hospital and so forth, there's a peace that just resides there and stays there that I cannot explain," Graham said. "Everybody can have that same peace if they receive Christ as their Savior. I know I'm going to heaven. I'm looking forward to it with great anticipation because of what Jesus did on that cross."

On Graham's 95th birthday in 2013, the BGEA released My Hope America with Billy Graham, a video-based evangelism outreach that included what many said would be Graham's last sermon. The campaign encouraged Christians across the country to invite friends and neighbors into their homes, show a My Hope DVD and share the Gospel message. To date, My Hope America has resulted in at least 200,000 professions of faith.

### Unchanging message

Over the years Graham's message never changed.

"Is there another way to heaven, except through Christ?" Graham asked the crowd during a Louisville, Ky., crusade in 2001. "The Bible teaches there's only one way. Other people will come along and try to tell you there are other ways, but the Bible says there's only one way, and that way is by the cross. Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me.'"

Often called "America's pastor," Graham personally knew every U.S. president -- Democrat and Republican -- from Harry

Truman to Barack Obama. A one-on-one meeting with Graham in the summer of 1985 marked a spiritual turning point in George W. Bush's life. Graham preached the funeral messages of Presidents Johnson and Nixon.

In 1995, Graham delivered a message of comfort at a national prayer service following the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people. Six years later, he delivered a similar message following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 that killed nearly 3,000.

### Early life

Born Nov. 7, 1918, near Charlotte, N.C., during the final days of World War I, Graham was saved at age 16 under the preaching of evangelist Mordecai Ham and soon thereafter felt a calling to vocational ministry. He preached his first revival at age 19 at a small Baptist church in Palatka, Fla. In 1946, at age 27, he began a six-month preaching tour of war-torn Great Britain in the months after World War II, speaking 360 times in 27 cities.

But it was a 1949 Los Angeles tent crusade that put Graham -- at age 30 -- on the map. Scheduled for three weeks, the crusade, sponsored by Youth for Christ, was extended to eight weeks. Ten thousand people attended nightly, with 16,000 the final night. Magazines such as Life, Newsweek and Time covered the event, and the Associated Press ran a story across the wire that told of a "dynamic,

handsome young" evangelist whose "old-style religion" had sparked "the greatest religious revival in the history of Southern California."

That was just the beginning.

### Worldwide influence

In 1954 Graham returned to London and held a three-month-long crusade in a 12,000-seat arena. Crowds were so large that people couldn't get in. To alleviate the problem, organizers set up remote crusades at 400 churches and halls throughout the countryside where people could hear Graham's messages live. On the crusade's final day, more than 120,000 people filled Wembley Stadium.

In 1957 in New York City, a nightly six-week crusade was extended to 16 weeks, with more than 100,000 at one point packing an overflowing Yankee Stadium. In 1962, Graham preached to 116,000 people at Soldier Field in Chicago. In 1973, he spoke to a crusade-record 1.1 million people in Seoul, South Korea.

Throughout the 1950s, '60s, '70s and '80s, Graham and his associates prayed that a door for the Gospel would open in the communist countries of Europe known for their hostility toward religion. Gradually, it did.

He preached in 1977 in Hungary to 30,000 people, and the next year in Poland to standing-room-only crowds in various churches. Invitations to East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Romania followed. In

His influence cont. on page 8

## Saying Goodbye



The Bushes stand at Billy Graham's casket with his son, Franklin. President Bush has shared in a Wall Street Journal op-ed, "God's work within me began in earnest with Billy's outreach. His care and his teachings were the real beginning of my faith walk—and the start of the end of my drinking." Photo taken from [BillyGraham.org](http://BillyGraham.org).

## Billy Graham's influence

% of Protestant and nondenominational American churchgoers who say they have:

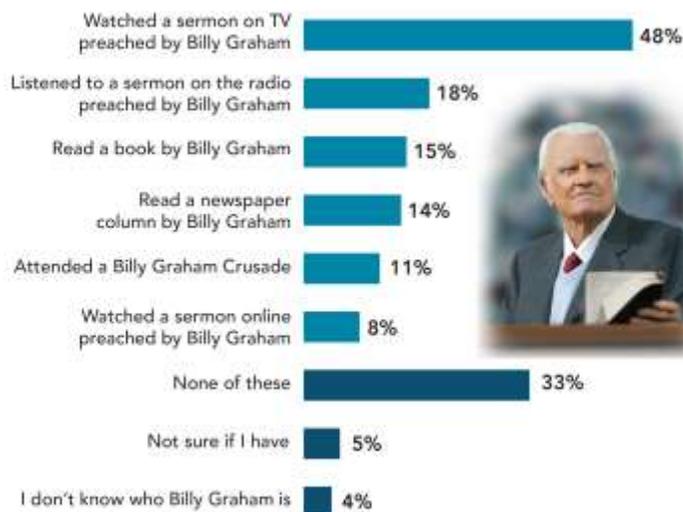


Photo provided by Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

## His influence cont...

1992, Graham preached at a crusade in Moscow with the Russian Red Army choral group singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic." On the final night of the crusade, 50,000 packed inside an arena and another 20,000 stood outside watching Graham speak on giant screens.

In his later years of ministry, Graham switched to an abbreviated crusade schedule, preaching at two or three events a year until he was no longer able. His 2005 crusade in New York City drew approximately 90,000 on the final night.

### Personal integrity

Graham and his evangelism team of Cliff Barrows, George Beverly Shea and Grady Wilson made informal rules to avoid financial and moral scandals. According to Graham's autobiography, "Just As I Am," the five men, meeting in a hotel in 1948 in Modesto, Calif., agreed to:

-- avoid "financial abuses," "downplay" the crusade offering as much as possible and rely "as much as possible" on money raised by churches in advance of the crusade. This would prevent those in attendance from feeling pressured to donate.

-- refuse to "travel, meet, or eat alone with a woman" other than the person's wife.

-- work in cooperation with local churches and not criticize them.

-- not exaggerate the size of the crowds at meetings.

The informal pact worked, and people noticed. In 1979 Muhammad Ali, upon visiting Graham's North Carolina home, expressed surprise at the evangelist's lack of luxurious living.

"When I arrived at the airport, Mr. Graham himself was waiting for me," Ali said according to Graham photographer Russ Busby's 1999 book "Billy Graham: God's Ambassador."

"I expected to be chauffeured in a Rolls Royce or at least a Mercedes," Ali continued, "but we got in his Oldsmobile and he drove it himself. I couldn't believe he came to the airport driving his own car. When we approached his home I thought he would live on a thousand-acre farm and we drove up to this house made of logs. No mansion with crystal chandeliers and gold carpets, it was the kind of house a man of God would live in. I look up to him."

### Race relations

Graham's stance on race relations also drew praise.

Though Graham accepted the custom of segregated seating at his early crusades, in 1952 he took down ropes that had been set up to divide blacks and whites at a crusade in Jackson, Miss. Integrated crusades followed throughout the South, including meetings in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Birmingham, Ala. In 1973, Graham held a crusade in apartheid-dominated South Africa, demanding that the gathering be integrated. He got his way.

"Had it not been for the ministry of my good friend, Dr. Billy Graham," the late Martin Luther King Jr. said according to Busby, "my work in the civil rights movement would not have been as successful as it has been."

In 2012, Graham met with New Orleans pastor Fred Luter, who had been elected the first black president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

### "Changed my address"

Graham was preceded in death by his wife Ruth, who died in 2007.

"Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead," Graham is widely reported to have said. "Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God."

*Reprinted from Baptist Press ([www.baptistpress.com](http://www.baptistpress.com)), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.*



*Billy Graham attends the 1951 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in San Francisco as a messenger. Graham gave an address during the Friday afternoon session of the meeting.*

*SBC file photo*

## "Billy Graham Remembered as 'Faithful,' 'Most Important Evangelist' by Religious Leaders"

*FoxNews.com, Feb. 21, 2018*

"Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, part of the Southern Baptist Convention, said it's almost 'impossible' to count the number of people he knows who have become Christians through Graham's work.

"In an interview with Fox News, Moore praised the authenticity of Graham, saying he was someone who was the same in both his public and private life.

"My earliest memories are watching him preach on television as a very small child. I remember being struck as a child with the gravity with which he took the Gospel. That continued with me for the rest of my life," Moore said. "When I met Dr. Graham, that same sense of weightiness of the Gospel was evident in him personally – just as it was in public."

"Moore added that Graham was 'successful' because his work wasn't all about himself, comparing him to the John the Baptist.

"I think the death of Billy Graham is a time for all of us to reflect on the hope that he preached – forgiveness of sins and peace with God through Jesus Christ," Moore said. "I hope there's a great deal of reflection, not just on what he did, but why."