

**BILLY
GRAHAM**
Evangelistic Association
Always Good News.

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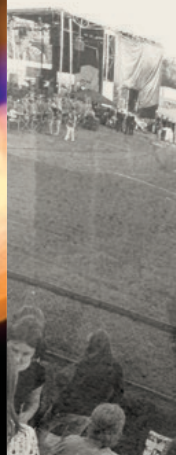


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WILL GRAHAM CELEBRATION



IN COOPERATION WITH

**BILLY
GRAHAM**
Evangelistic Association
Always Good News.

Dear Friend,

Telling someone else the Good News of Jesus Christ is one of the greatest privileges I know, for when others hear and believe the Gospel, their lives are changed forever. It's also one of our greatest responsibilities.

A NOTE FROM
WILL
GRAHAM

Is there any other person or message that can offer real hope, peace, and joy in the midst of this world's suffering? God's Word is clear: *"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12, ESV). All have sinned, and sin separates us from God, leaving us guilty and lost. The message of Christ, however, is *"the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes"* (Romans 1:16, ESV). That's why I join with Christians and churches in communities like yours to proclaim this truth through evangelistic Celebrations. By reaching out together, we see thousands of men, women, and young people each year find new life through repentance and faith in Him.

As you consider how the Lord would have you go about fulfilling the Great Commission to make disciples, my prayer is that you will have a clear sense of God's will and timing, and that He would bless you with the courage to launch out in obedience to Him, however formidable the challenges may be. We stand ready to partner with you in this great work of the Gospel. May God bless you.

Sincerely,



Will Graham





THE MESSAGE



To give an opportunity for making a personal commitment to Jesus Christ

AND THE GOAL

- To mobilize the Christian community to assemble as many people as possible to hear the message that Jesus Christ is *"the way, the truth, and the life"* (John 14:6, NKJV).
- To give opportunity for personal commitment.
- To refer inquirers to a local church for follow-up and Christian nurture.
- To strengthen the local church.

THE METHOD

God uses many methods of evangelism, and a Celebration is one.

A Will Graham Celebration is much larger than the few days of the actual event. While the evangelistic services are the most visible aspect of the Celebration, they are not the only part. It all begins with local Christians praying and working behind the scenes to prepare the way for the Celebration. Long after the event is over, area churches carry on the work, discipling those who came to faith during the Celebration.

A Will Graham Celebration is built upon the principles and experience of Billy Graham Crusades. From the earliest days of preparation to post-Celebration follow-up, it follows the God-blessed pattern developed over the years by Billy Graham and his team. A Will Graham



Celebration isn't just in the community a few days and then gone. It's a Spirit-led event that begins months, even years, before, through the efforts of people like you, and it continues to affect and shape lives for years afterward—and for eternity!

A Will Graham Celebration is an effective tool to assist the local church in reconciling men, women, and young people to God and each other in Jesus Christ, and in strengthening the local congregation through involvement and training opportunities.





SIX WAYS

a Will Graham Celebration
can benefit you and your church.

1 Prayer

Without prayer, we could not survive as Christians, nor would we ever hold a Celebration. Every aspect of the Celebration directs believers toward prayer—determined, heartfelt, ceaseless prayer.

2 Evangelism Training

Many committed Christians have never shared their faith because they don't know how or they are afraid. The Christian Life and Witness classes teach Christians how to effectively and confidently present the Gospel. The classes also prepare believers to counsel people at the Celebration.

3 An Action Plan for Witnessing

A further step is taken when Christians put their learning into practice through Search and Rescue. Participants identify, begin praying for, and develop relationships with family and friends who need Christ and then invite them to the Celebration to hear the message of salvation.

4 Spiritual Renewal

Nothing is more exciting than personal spiritual renewal and renewal in the church. By helping prepare for the Celebration, bringing friends and family to the meetings, and worshipping with other Christians, renewal is sparked in individual lives and in congregations.

5 Christian Unity

The church is never stronger than when it is united with one common goal. The common goal of the Celebration is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing Christians together from many different denominations. Lasting relationships and bonds are formed that unite churches in the community.

6 New Christians in Local Churches

The Celebration process is designed to assimilate new believers into churches where their spiritual growth is encouraged. New Christians sharpen the church and add vitality to congregational life and worship.



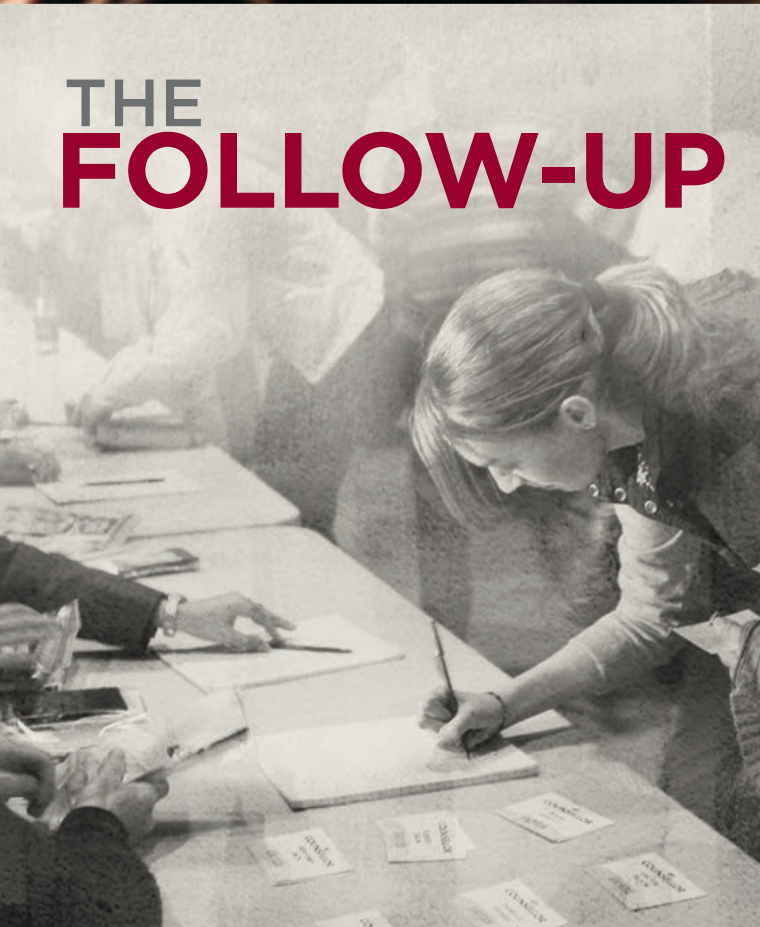


"the way, the truth, and the

LIFE"



THE FOLLOW-UP



Counseling cards are sent to participating churches for follow-up and nurture.

All Celebration inquirers are asked by counselors to state their church preference or the church that invited them; this is recorded on the counseling card. According to the inquirer's stated preference, special copies of the counseling card are sent to ministers of participating churches for follow-up and nurture.

In cases where the inquirer has stated a nonparticipating church preference, the inquirer is referred to a Discovery Group for follow-up and nurture. A courtesy letter is mailed to the pastor, indicating the inquirer's decision.

In cases where the inquirer has not stated a church preference or has indicated a non-Christian assembly, the minister's information copy of the counseling card will be sent to the participating church nearest the inquirer's home.



ORGANIZATION

*With the help of key laypeople,
the local church can be mobilized.*

Each Celebration is organized as a project of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and a local leadership team of representative ministers and laypersons serves as the controlling body of the Celebration. This leadership team works to coordinate the schedule of events, leads various working teams, raises Celebration funds, and cooperates with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in the ministry and outreach of the Celebration.

Since involvement and mobilization of local churches is critical to the success of the

Celebration, each church is encouraged to form a local church leadership team—usually composed of four to six people—to mobilize men, women, students, and children.

With the help of the local church leadership team, the church can be mobilized through planning, information sharing, distribution of Celebration materials, and recruitment of volunteers for different areas of involvement. Local working teams and a Celebration director assigned by BGEA assist the local church leadership teams in their work, which extends over a few months' time.





OUR FINANCIAL **POLICY**

The local leadership team is responsible for adopting and implementing the general finance policy for the Celebration set forth in a charter.

The Celebration operates as a project of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, without having to be a separate nonprofit entity. The local leadership team accepts and raises a percentage of the total Celebration budget, with all funds going toward the Celebration budget. All financial activity is promptly receipted, reported, and finally audited.

Will Graham receives no part of contributed funds designated for the Celebration. His salary, travel, accommodations, etc., are expenses paid by BGEA.



For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-6, ESV

