

A MINISTRY OF
**BILLY
GRAHAM**
Evangelistic Association
Always Good News.

WILL GRAHAM CELEBRATION

SPREADING THE GOOD
NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST



A NOTE FROM WILL GRAHAM

» Dear Friend,

I am so thankful for the opportunity to proclaim the Gospel. There is nothing greater than seeing lives forever changed by Jesus Christ. God's Word tells us that evangelism is not just a special calling for a select few—it's the responsibility of every believer. Jesus' last instruction to His followers before He ascended to Heaven was to *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations"* (Matthew 28:19, NKJV).

Only Jesus can bring hope to this suffering world. His love and forgiveness alone offer lasting peace in the darkest circumstances.

Scripture is clear: *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12, NKJV). The Bible also tells us that everyone has sinned, all have fallen short, and all are separated from God—but the Good News is the *"power of God to salvation for everyone who believes"* (Romans 1:16, NKJV). That message is why I've joined with Christians and churches in communities like yours to proclaim the Gospel through evangelistic Celebrations. By working together, we see thousands of searching men, women, and young people each year find new life in Christ through repentance and faith.

I pray that the Lord will give you a clear sense of direction—and the courage to obey Him—as you consider your part in fulfilling the Great Commission. We stand ready to join you in this awesome work of proclaiming the Gospel. May God bless you.

Sincerely,



Will Graham



WHAT IS A CELEBRATION?

» **SINCE 1950**, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has held Crusades all across the globe for one purpose: to proclaim God's love to people who need Jesus Christ. Today, Will Graham Celebrations continue this life-changing mission.

A Celebration is not just an evangelistic event; it is a process of prayer, training, outreach, and follow-up that takes place over a 12-month period—and it begins and ends with you, the local church.

PROCLAIMING
JESUS CHRIST



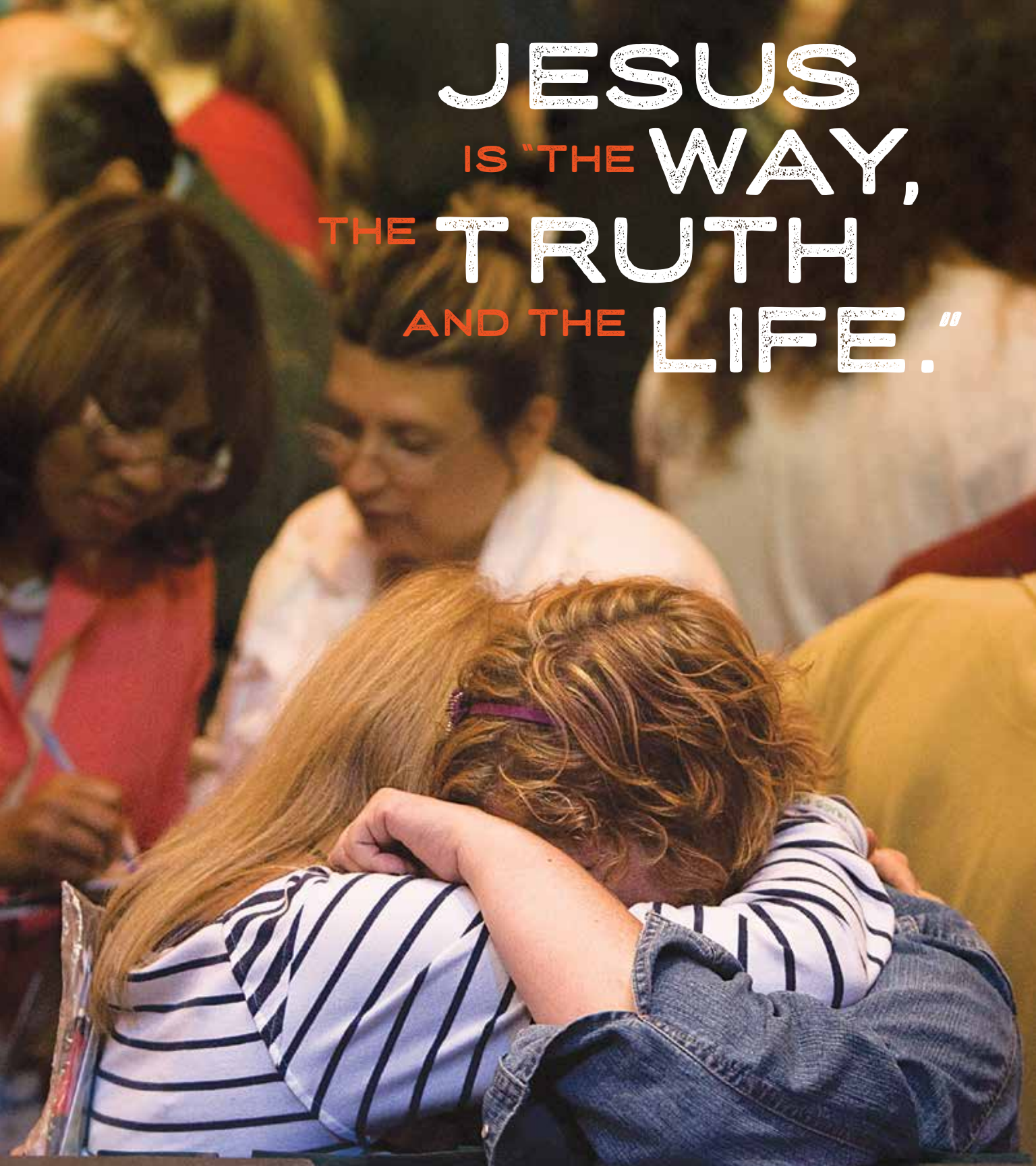


THE MESSAGE



AND THE GOAL

- » • To mobilize the Christian community to gather 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 people an opportunity to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.
- To refer inquirers to a local church for follow-up and Christian nurture.
- To strengthen the local church.

A photograph of a church service. In the foreground, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt, is seen from behind, resting her head on her crossed arms. Behind her, a man with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, is looking down. To the left, a woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a red top, is also looking down. The background is filled with other people, some blurred, suggesting a large gathering. The text "JESUS IS 'THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.'" is overlaid on the top right of the image in a white, distressed, typewriter-style font. The words "IS", "THE", and "AND" are in a smaller, orange-red font.

JESUS
IS "THE WAY,
THE TRUTH
AND THE LIFE."



THE METHOD

» **A WILL GRAHAM CELEBRATION** is much larger than the few days of the actual event. While the evangelistic services are the most visible aspect, they are not the only part. It all begins with local Christians praying and working behind the scenes to prepare the way. 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!

Through the Bring a Friend program, a Will Graham Celebration uses individual evangelism in a mass setting. It strengthens and builds local congregations 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 pray with people who come forward at the Celebration.

3 AN ACTION PLAN FOR WITNESSING

Christians put their learning into practice through Bring a Friend. After participants identify family and friends who need to know Jesus Christ, they commit to pray for and build relationships with them—leading up to an invitation to the Celebration, where their friends and loved ones will hear the message of salvation.

4 SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

As Christians prepare for the Celebration, bring friends and family to the meetings, and worship with other believers, the Lord can bring renewal into individual lives and congregations.

5 CHRISTIAN UNITY

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

6 NEW CHRISTIANS IN LOCAL CHURCHES

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





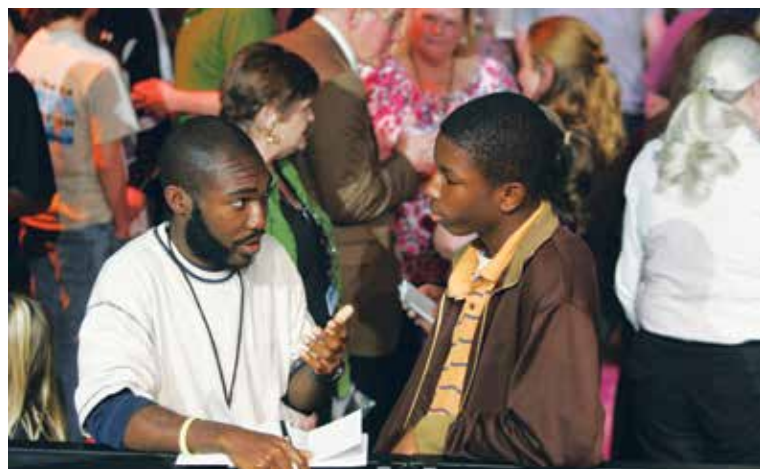
FOLLOW-UP

In cases where the inquirer has stated a nonparticipating church preference, he or she is referred for follow-up and nurture to a local small-group Bible study. A follow-up report with contact information is sent to that person's pastor, indicating his or her decision.

In cases where the inquirer has not stated a church preference or has indicated a non-Christian assembly, a special pastor follow-up report with contact information is sent to the participating church nearest the person's home.

» **ALL CELEBRATION** inquirers—those who come forward and respond to the Gospel—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 person's stated preference, a card with contact information is sent to ministers of participating churches for follow-up and nurture.



ORGANIZATION



EACH CELEBRATION IS ORGANIZED

as a project of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), and a leadership team of local pastors and laypeople serves as the guiding body of the Celebration. This team works to coordinate the schedule of events, leads various working teams, raises Celebration funds, and partners with BGEA in the ministry and outreach of the Celebration.

Since the involvement 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, a congregation 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 FINANCE POLICY

» **THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP TEAM** is responsible for adopting and implementing the general finance policy for the Celebration, which is set forth in a charter.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

The Celebration operates as a ministry 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 audited at the conclusion of the Celebration.

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

BILLY
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