

Around the World With Billy Graham

*"I am convinced, through my travels and experiences, that
people all over the world are hungry to hear the Word of God."*

—Billy Graham

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Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth, are welcomed after arriving at the airport in Seoul, South Korea, in May 1973.

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GRADE LEVEL

6th–8th

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Identify five of the countries visited by Billy Graham.
- Describe at least two of the cities where he preached.
- Identify and describe some of the obstacles created by working and preaching in a foreign country.

NORTH CAROLINA STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY

- **6.H.2** Understand the political, economic, and/or social significance of historical events, issues, individuals, and cultural groups.
- **7.H.2** Understand the implications of global interactions.
- **7.G.2** Apply the tools of a geographer to understand modern societies and regions.
- **7.C.1** Understand how cultural values influence relationships between individuals, groups, and political entities in modern societies and regions.

"I have walked down jungle trails in Africa where I met fellow Christians; and immediately we were brothers even though we were separated by language, race, and culture."

—Billy Graham

Pre-Visit Activities

- Read and review the attached information with students, and discuss the following questions about three of the cities listed, conducting additional research when necessary.
 - On what continent and in what country is the city located? Does it border an ocean or a river? If so, which one?
 - In what kind of environment is the city located?
 - What language do the people speak in this city? Would Billy Graham have needed a translator when preaching there?
 - What kind of challenges might he have faced in this city? If he were to preach in this city today, would he face the same challenges?
 - What specific characteristics of Seoul, South Korea, are mentioned in the Billy Kim interview?

Visit to the Library

- Students will walk through *The Journey of Faith* tour with an assigned guide. Questions and themes to consider include:
 - Do you notice any items specifically related to Billy Graham's travels? If so, what are they?
 - What items do you notice that are from a particular city or Crusade?
 - Do you notice any items that have text in a foreign language? What are those items?
 - What photos do you notice that feature Billy Graham, or a member of the team, in a foreign country?

Post-Visit Activities

- Ask students to research one of the cities shown on the next page in more detail and create a profile sheet of that city. Include its weather, language(s), major religion(s), etc. Ask students to consider how these factors might have affected Billy Graham and the Crusade.
- Students may create a compare/contrast chart of one of the listed cities with Charlotte. What is similar? What is different? How would the differences have impacted Billy Graham and his team?

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HISTORY IN THE SCHOOLS

• **Historical Thinking**

Standard 5: *Identify issues and problems in the past and analyze the interests, values, perspectives, and points of view of those involved in the situation.*

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

• **NSS-G.K-12.1 The World in Spatial Terms:**

- *As a result of activities in grades K–12, all students should understand how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.*
- *Understand how to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.*

• **NSS-G.K-12.2 Places and Regions:**

- *As a result of activities in grades K–12, all students should understand how culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions.*

• **NSS-G.K-12.6 The Uses of Geography:**

- *As a result of activities in grades K–12, all students should understand how to apply geography to interpret the past.*

Around the World With Billy Graham

"Ask God to help you see the world the way He sees it."

—Billy Graham

Pre-Visit Reading: Overview

Billy Graham was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, but he didn't stay there long. During his more than 70 years of ministry, he traveled to more than 185 countries and territories across the globe and to all 50 states in the U.S. Along the way, he preached the Good News of Jesus Christ to more than 215 million people face to face, more than anyone else in history.

Here's a closer look at six of the cities and countries Billy Graham visited:



NOTES



Billy Graham greets congregants at the Church of the Resurrection in Durban, South Africa, on March 18, 1973.

- **London, England:** In 1952, two British Christian leaders asked Billy Graham if he would consider holding a Crusade in London. Two years later, Billy and his wife, Ruth, boarded the ocean liner *SS United States*, bound for England. Thousands of Christians all over the world prayed for the Greater London Crusade. The response was overwhelming. It turned out to be the biggest evangelism outreach attempted in England during the 20th century. At least 1.75 million people attended the Crusade during its three-month period. BBC radio—Britain's main news source—even broadcast some of the Crusade's sermons nationwide.
- **Seoul, South Korea:** In 1973, about 20 years after the Korean War—which divided Korea into two countries—Billy Graham traveled to Seoul, the capital of South Korea. During the closing service of the Crusade, Graham preached to more than 1 million people face to face—the largest live audience he ever addressed! Billy Kim, who served as an interpreter translating Graham's sermons from English to Korean, went on to become one of the country's most prominent preachers.
- **Johannesburg, South Africa:** The same year that he held the South Korea Crusade, Billy Graham accepted an invitation to evangelistic meetings in South Africa. Graham had declined multiple earlier invitations due to the country's strict apartheid policy, which segregated whites and blacks. He insisted that he would preach only to a fully integrated audience, and in 1973, the government finally allowed him to do so. The meetings featured traditional African music, including performances from a Zulu quartet. At one meeting, 60,000 people came to hear the Gospel from Graham.

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- **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:** In 1974, Billy Graham traveled to Brazil for a five-day Crusade in the city of Rio de Janeiro. The closing meeting welcomed 225,000 people—the largest crowd ever to attend an evangelistic service in the Western Hemisphere. While preparing to preach, Graham could hear people beating on the locked doors as tens of thousands more tried to get in. On the orders of Brazil’s president, that last meeting was televised on all the networks across the country, and 50 million people reportedly watched. When Graham was ready to leave the stadium, the police escort was reluctant to open the gates for fear the crowd, in their enthusiasm, might riot.
- **Sydney, Australia:** Billy Graham visited Australia for the first time in 1959, spending almost six months between it and its neighboring country New Zealand. By the end of his stay, nearly half of Australia’s population had heard Graham preach, either in person or by live broadcasts, which carried the Gospel message across the country. For decades after the Crusade, those who made new professions of faith in Christ during the meetings were called ‘59ers. “In Australia, Billy Graham was known as *the* evangelist. He was the guy,” explains Peter Furler, former lead singer of the popular Christian band Newsboys. “There are generations of Australians who follow Christ now because of Billy Graham. ... He had a massive impact in Australia.”
- **Madras (Chennai), India:** In January 1956, Billy Graham’s team embarked on a six-city tour of India. Madras, also called Chennai, was their second stop. The city was jammed with people who had traveled long distances to attend the Crusade. There were even 100 people from one faraway city who had ridden the train for days to get there. Many travelers couldn’t find a place to stay. Hundreds slept in the streets and then camped at the meeting site all day.

During the Crusade, Graham explained to his listeners that Christianity had been in India long before America was even discovered. He used two interpreters and two choirs to translate the messages into the two regional languages—Tamil and Telugu. Later, in his autobiography *Just As I Am*, Graham recalled a small hiccup in the translation process. “Talking about Jesus, I had said, ‘He’s alive!’ Mr. Titus promptly rendered that in Telugu, but Mr. Manogarom faltered,” explains Graham. “I repeated the expression several times. Finally, he uttered ‘*Avan poikaran*.’ The Tamils gasped. As I learned afterward, the best Mr. Manogarom could make of my North Carolina accent was, ‘He was a liar!’ No great harm was done, for the mistake evened itself out in the next few sentences.”

Pre-Visit Reading: Excerpts from February 2011 *Decision* magazine interview with Billy Kim, Billy Graham's translator for the Seoul, South Korea, Crusade

Q: Can you describe the events leading up to the 1973 Crusade?

A: Korea was geared to have evangelism. South Korea's population then was about 30 million people. So church leaders and Christian educators considered an evangelistic campaign: "Let's Win 30 Million Koreans for Christ." They had a real passion to win people to the Lord.

With that backdrop, they had the idea of wanting to capture Billy Graham's evangelistic fervor. So I asked Dr. Kyung-Chik Han, pastor emeritus of Young Nak Presbyterian Church in Seoul, "Why don't we invite Dr. Billy Graham to come do a Crusade?" He responded, "Do you think he'll come?" I said, "You write him a letter, then we'll see what happens."

I also had some wonderful contacts with the South Korean government. President Park Chung-hee didn't know Billy Graham very well, so I gathered all the magazine and newspaper articles and books that I could find and gave them to a government official, who took them to President Park. They decided that it would be a good idea to have Dr. Graham come. A Crusade committee was formed, and we began to pray. Dr. Graham accepted the invitation.

Q: Before Mr. Graham's Crusade in Seoul, more than 1 million people attended meetings by BGEA associate evangelists in other major cities. Why this strategy?

A: Church leaders insisted, "Don't just have a Crusade in Seoul. Let's have simultaneous Crusades in other key provincial cities." After those meetings, we focused on mass evangelism in our capital city.

The Korean people were ready. They had been praying for revival, and for this Crusade. The other cities drew tremendous crowds, all building up to the Seoul Crusade.

Q: What was it about that event that changed the landscape of the church?

A: Korea was a predominantly Buddhist country, with a strong Buddhist influence within high society, government, and politics. Yet after the Crusade, people saw the positive impact and benefits of Christianity. There was a strong mobilization of believers, and the church has become a major force. ... People are not ashamed of the Gospel.

You see, we never had a megachurch before 1973. But with so many people surrendering their lives to Christ, they were funneled into evangelical churches. And God has continued to bless.

Q: In what other ways did the Crusade make a difference?

A: Bible schools and seminaries were started. Strong Bible teaching and discipleship training were emphasized. And every church wanted to be a missions-outreach church. Today, South

Korea sends more missionaries than any other country except the United States. Our church alone has built 30 churches in Mongolia since 1973.

At the same time, the ethics that Christianity teaches people—to work hard, to be honest, and to be humble—I believe, dramatically influenced the Korean labor force, and our economy rose very rapidly. It's a miracle.

Q: So many changed lives. Is there an example that encourages you even today?

A: Recently I was having dinner at the Washington Country Club with Ambassador Han Duk-soo and his wife. He was prime minister in the last administration and then appointed as the Korean ambassador to Washington.

Ambassador Han was presented a picture book of Billy Graham that had a two-page picture of the 1973 Crusade on Yoido Plaza. When he saw that picture of the 1 million people, he pointed to a specific spot and said, "I was sitting right there." He was a Korean military corporal and received a two-day leave from his base to hear Billy Graham. He rededicated his life to the Lord at that Crusade, and he's now a Methodist deacon, and his wife is a deaconess.