

BILLY GRAHAM THE MAN



ANSWERING THE CALL OF GOD

Billy's Mother, Morrow recalls the growing seriousness in Billy's letters concerning God's call on his life to become an evangelist. Billy sought God for his specific call as Eph 4:11 "He called some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers," turned again and again in his heart. William Franklin Graham, Jr., known as Billy Graham to most of the world, was born on November 7, 1918, near Charlotte, North Carolina, to William Franklin and Morrow Coffey Graham. Billy was the first of four children, followed by Catherine, Melvin, and Jean. William Franklin, Sr., was a successful dairy farmer and overall Billy had a normal loving childhood. Both parents were Christians and



Charlotte. His messages stirred up considerable controversy, charging moral laxity at the local high school. Partly attracted by the controversy, Billy attended the meet-

emotion, there was no thunder or lightning, all I know is that I had changed. That night on my knees by the bedside, I prayed, "Oh God, I don't understand all of this, but what I know is that I have given myself to you." Very nervous, while visiting a jail house in Monroe, North Carolina, Billy declared his faith in Jesus openly to the inmates. In 1936 Billy graduated from Sharon High School and began earning money for college tuition as a Fuller Brush door to door sales man.

In the fall of 1936, the young man began attending the fundamentalist school, Bob Jones College in Cleveland, Tennessee. However, he could not adjust to campus life and left after a few months. He transferred in



the family regularly attended the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. In 1934, evangelist Mordecai Fowler Ham began preaching at a series of revival meetings in

ings that evening. Graham's conviction of his own sin, drew him to answer Ham's message, committing his life to Christ. "Billy said, I didn't shed tears or have any special

Revival Tent in Los Angeles Drawing 10,000 Each Night

Los Angeles — AP — Old-style religion is sweeping the City of the Angels with an evangelistic show overshadowing even Billy Sunday.

Since it started six weeks ago, more than 200,000 from the City's 2,000,000 population have flocked into a circus tent on the fringe of downtown Los Angeles. They're still pouring in at the rate of 10,000 every night.

They come to hear the preachments of a dynamic, handsome young college president named Billy Graham. Churchmen say he's started the greatest religious revival in the history of Southern California. The revival is conducted by Youth for Christ, a nation-wide interdenominational youth rally movement. In Florin, the affiliate group is known as V.C.T., or Victorious Christian Youth. Graham conducted a rally at Central High School last February which attracted an overflow audience of young people.

Graham's oratory is eloquent; his doctrines are home-spun. From the singing, shouting multitudes, thousands have hit the sidewalk trail and announced publicly their decision to return to Christ.

One of them was a brilliant track star at the University of Southern California before the war. His name is Lou Zamperini. An Air Force captain, he crashed in the Pacific, spent 47 days on a raft, then lived through months in a Japanese prison camp.

"It is difficult for anyone who came through the things I did to forget God, but I did," Zamperini testified. Another convert is Stuart



Billy Graham

Hamblen, popular cowboy crooner and sportsman, son of a Methodist minister. He stopped to the pulpit to announce that he'll sell his racing stable.

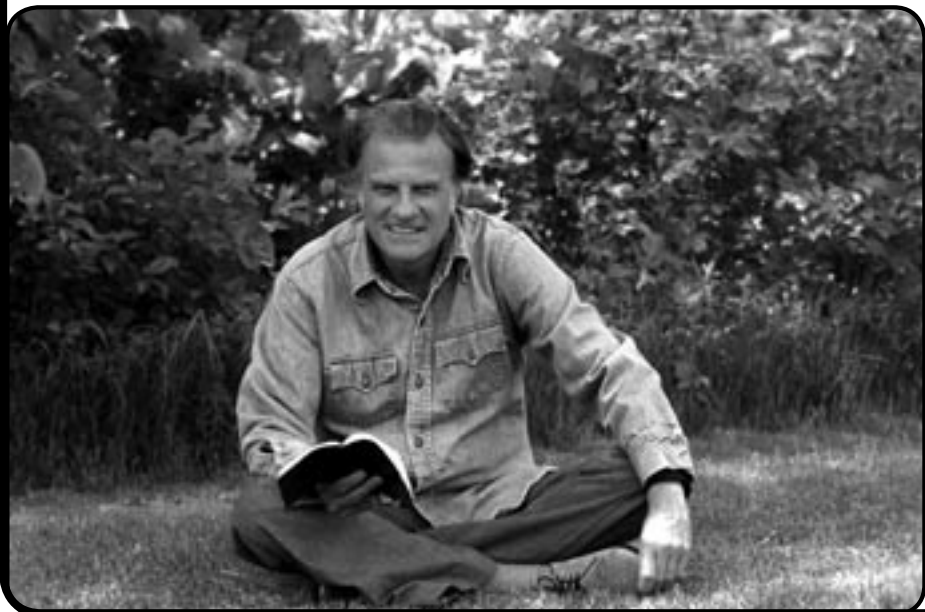
"I will keep El Lobo, but only for sentimental reasons," Hamblen said. "I will never race him again." El Lobo, dubbed "the people's choice," won the \$50,000 San Antonio stakes at Santa Anita in LMI.

Hamblen's sentiments are typical: "I've done practically everything everybody else has done. I've been a sinner."

Graham is 30, nephew of North Carolina Sen. Frank Graham and president of little Northwestern Bible College in Minneapolis. He wears garish ties, avic's socks and an ironing



"LOS ANGELES TAUGHT US THE POWER OF PRAYER, THE POWER OF GOD, BUT ALSO THE POWER OF GOD'S WORK KNOWN,"



January of 1937 to Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity College) from which he graduated in 1940 with a BTh (Bachelor of Theology degree). One evening while on a stroll, Billy said yes to the call of God to be an evangelist. Late in 1938 he preached his first revival meeting at a little Baptist Church in Palarka, where half week into the services, Billy waded into a nearby lake to be baptized.

In March of 1938, Graham's first (and last) pastorate after graduation was at the Baptist church in the Chicago suburb of Western Springs. He served a little over a year. During his time in Western Springs, he took over the religious radio program *Songs in the Night* from another Chicago-area pastor, Torrey



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, THE LIFE, THE VISION



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-BILLY GRAHAM 1949



Johnson. Graham preached on the program every Sunday evening and persuaded George Beverly Shea, a popular Christian soloist, to join him. The program was only a few months old, when Graham left to become vice president of Youth for Christ.

While the Nazi's invaded Europe, Billy enrolled at Wheaton College where he met, Ruth Bell, his future wife. The daughter of the Southern Presbyterian missionaries and surgeon, L. Nelson, the Bells had been stationed in China since 1916. The couple was married on August 13, 1943, after his graduation.

In 1945, Youth for Christ sprung up around the country and a leadership organization was formed under Torrey Johnson who hired Graham as his helper at a salary of

"I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL ON EVERY CONTINENT IN MOST OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. AND I HAVE FOUND THAT WHEN I PRESENT THE SIMPLE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, WITH AUTHORITY, QUOTING FROM THE VERY WORD OF GOD-HE TAKES THAT MESSAGE & DRIVES IT SUPERNATURALLY INTO THE HUMAN HEART."
-BILLY GRAHAM

\$75.00 a week. For the next four years, Graham traveled all over the United States, Canada, and Europe speaking at rallies and organizing YFC chapters.

In 1949 Billy met a challenge to His faith while in California, two weeks before the opening of the Los Angeles crusade. Several young theologians expressed their doubts concerning the authority of the Bible. Suddenly Billy pondered if the Bible could be in error. The Apostle Paul's words wrestled in his heart, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." The young Billy took careful observation of Henrietta Mears, whose faith and passion in the Word of God was marked by the miraculous and the favor of His presence. That night under a moonlight sky, Billy



dropped to his knees and settled the issue in his heart. "The Bible is the Inspired Word of God." From that day forward, his preaching would be passionate and unwavering.

As the Los Angeles crusades began, thousands converted to faith in Jesus Christ. The dramatic conversion of a local underworld figure and a prominent disc jockey caught the attention and interest of newspaper readers throughout the region.

The newspaper magnate, William Randolph Hearst, ordered his publications to "spotlight Graham" and other newspapers around the country followed suit.

Billy had entered Los Angeles; a city of sceptics and a populous, hard hearted to the message of the Gospel but he had left people everywhere talking about the power of God through Jesus to change lives. The basis of his message had not wavered from the simplicity of the Monroe jailhouse 10 years before. Today after 60 years of ministry, the message still rings strong concerning the Saving power of JESUS and his love to anyone that will call on Him.

Graham's jail house message had been "Jesus changed my life! He gave me peace and joy. He can give you peace and joy! He will forgive your sins as he forgave mine, if you will only let him into your heart! Jesus died so that sinners might be forgiven, have their lives trans-

formed, and find peace with God." Billy's message to many millions of people is still transforming those willing to answer the call of Jesus. "...The Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believes..." Rom 1:16 the same gospel preached by the 1st Century church.

If you feel him tugging at your heart now, it is the time to pray...

Jesus, come into my heart, Forgive me of my sins,

I surrender my life to you. Give me your joy and peace with God your Father.

Thank You, Jesus for the gift of eternal life.

Remember, the Billy Graham Crusade July 29 through August 1, 2004 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.



"I PRESENT A GOD WHO MATTERS, AND WHO MAKES CLAIMS ON THE HUMAN RACE. HE IS A GOD OF LOVE, GRACE, AND MERCY, BUT ALSO A GOD OF JUDGMENT. WHEN WE BREAK HIS MORAL LAWS WE SUFFER; WHEN WE KEEP THEM WE HAVE INWARD PEACE & JOY. I AM CALLING FOR A REVIVAL THAT WILL CAUSE MEN AND WOMEN TO RETURN TO THEIR OFFICES AND SHOPS TO LIVE OUT THE TEACHING OF CHRIST IN THEIR DAILY RELATIONSHIPS. I PREACH A GOSPEL NOT OF DESPAIR BUT OF HOPE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, HOPE FOR SOCIETY, AND HOPE FOR THE WORLD. - BILLY GRAHAM

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