

Fountain of Life

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Legend of Legends Billy the Legend

p14

The Graham Clan Speaks



“Is not the commission of our Lord still binding upon us?

Can we not do more than now we are doing?...

I might have had large possessions,

but I have given my all,

except what I ate, drank, and wore,

to the cause of missions...”

~William Carey



Away in foreign lands they wondered how

Their simple words had power.

At home the Christians, two or three,

Had met to pray an hour.

Yes, we are always wondering, wondering how—

Because we do not see

Someone — perhaps unknown and faraway —

On bended knee.

—Author unknown

Victim's Verdict

Healing the Nation



While standing on the deck of a ship sailing to London, for the Second Round Table Conference in 1931, a newspaper correspondent asked Gandhi as to what Constitution he would bring back if he could help it. Gandhi replied:

“I shall strive for a Constitution, which will release India from all thraldom and patronage...I shall work for an India, in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice...an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony. Women shall enjoy the same rights as men...All interests not in conflict with the interests of the dumb millions will be scrupulously respected, whether foreign or indigenous. Personally, I hate distinction between foreign and indigenous.

This is the India of my dreams.”

[\[http://www.preservearticles.com\]](http://www.preservearticles.com)

Rewind your memory in slow motion to a remote location in Orissa and remember the night of January 23 1999. Graham Stuart Staines and his two sons Philip [aged 10] and Timothy [aged 6] were burnt to death while sleeping in his station wagon at Manoharpur village in Keonjhar district in Orissa. He was survived by his widowed wife Gladys and daughter, Esther. Dr. Staines was an Australian Christian worker serving the leprosy victims in India since 1961.

December 14 2012. Another incident took place in India's capital on a different rhythm which had multiple repercussions. Nirbhay a medical student was gang raped in a moving bus. She battled a losing battle for life and finally gave up.

While Gandhiji's dream for a safe nation is still in the making, my attention was drawn to the response of the victims' family.

Nirbhaya's father, who is fighting the case, wants nothing less than the gallows for the accused. Her mother in an interview, "...Now the only thing that will satisfy us is to see them punished. For what they did to her, they deserve to die."

On the contrary, we have another response of another victim, herself a widow and her daughter an orphan. The world watched in anxiety for the victim's verdict. Her response was simply, "It is far from my mind to punish the persons who

were responsible for the death of my husband Graham and my two children. But it is my desire and hope that they would repent and would be reformed."

In her affidavit before the Commission on the death of her husband and two sons Gladys Staines stated:

“The Lord God is always with me to guide me and help me to try to accomplish the work of Graham, but I sometimes wonder why Graham was killed and also what made his assassins to behave in such a brutal manner on the night of 22nd/23rd January 1999. It is far from my mind to punish the persons who were responsible for the death of my husband Graham and my two children. But it is my desire and hope that they would repent and would be reformed.” [\[http://www.hvk.org/specialrepo/wadhwa/Graham.html\]](http://www.hvk.org/specialrepo/wadhwa/Graham.html)

The remnant of the Christ's chosen is still pure and without a wrinkle and this is the Church He is returning for. This is the message Jesus wants the Church to communicate to the world. Forgiveness is the essence of Christianity; loving our enemies not just our neighbours is God's message. It is not love your neighbour as thy self, but love thy neighbour as Christ loved is the New Covenant message of Christ that He taught His disciples, [see John 13:34]. It is by this shall the world know, "...that ye are my disciples." There is no healing without forgiveness; in forgiving others, I allow healing on myself. There is no greater disease than the disease of hatred. Consider, if is this also the root of all terrorism...?

Fountain of Life (FoL) is an inspirational, interdenominational, apolitical (non-political) contemporary missions magazine published bi-monthly from, Visakhapatnam, AP, India.

FoL includes articles, messages, thoughtful comments and relevant news written from a Christian perspective thereby bringing an awareness of missions and missionary endeavour. The articles are aimed at challenging the readers with the issues and happenings on the missionary frontiers and thus impact their spiritual lives to take up missions as a lifestyle.

Our Vision: To be an effective tool committed to inspire, inform, invigorate and encourage the the body of Christ to take up missions as a lifestyle.

Our Mission Statement: In pursuit of awakening a missionary spirit.

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We welcome free-lance contribution of any article on missions and missionary work in India and abroad. FoL being a missions magazine aims at keeping a balance of 60/40 per cent of missions and other articles. Inspiring articles, first hand miracles experienced in challenging situations and other related articles that help Christian growth can be sent to us. However, the final decision to accept or reject depends on the editorial team. It is preferred that the articles be accompanied with good quality photographs in color/black and white. You may send them by email too. Digital photographs must be in 300 DPI and in Tiff /Corel Draw/JPG format preferably.

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From the Editor



**"Either write something worth reading or
do something worth writing."**

~Benjamin Franklin

One life lived worthily in one lifetime is a spectacle for the world to watch and remember for the rest of the life; yes, to remember as long as the tomorrows take us into the future. Such lives indeed need no mention in the annals of history, yet, their will continue to live and resonate in the memory of those whose lives they have transformed and touched. This issue contains three such personalities whose lives will speak to our lives and future generations; Billy Graham, George Beverley Shea and Evelyn (Chava Rivka) Kozak. One common thread that we see running through their lives, is, 'they lived their lives unto God.'

It was Benjamin Franklin who said, "...either write something worth reading or do something worth writing." These lives whose biographies are worth reading are a feast to readers of this issue. Life is precious and what is precious never reoccurs. We read in Richard F. Burton's *The Arabian Nights*, "...but life comes once and never twice." We are created with a potential to fulfill the purpose of our creation. Life's greatest challenge is to capture the wonder of that purpose. He who lingers around chasing vain dreams without purposing the purpose of one's existence, will soon be a dead being even while alive, and the end of such fruitless life is not too far.

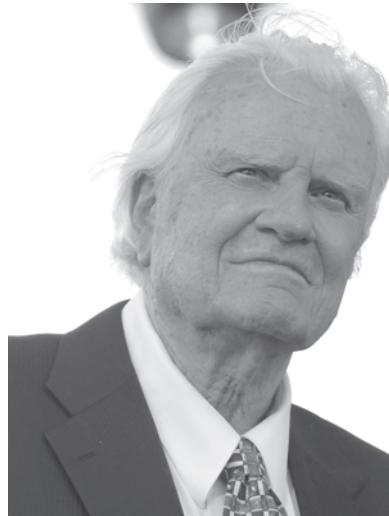
We have no agenda of our own while on this earth, except that which we are sent with and sent for. Did not Jesus say the same thing that His will was to do the will of the Father and that He had none of His own? If the Master himself had no agenda of His own except that of His Father's will, are we His servants, greater than the Master?

If we have any such as 'I,' 'me' and 'mine' while on this earth, let us abandon such ego centric life, for there is no greater wretchedness than the wretchedness of trying to be above our Master's agenda.

(Sunny Joseph)

Editorial

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Greatful **Dead**

...the power of the anointing

When we speak of worship being an organic entity that finds its own energy in the dynamism of the river, or when we speak of flowing gracefully between the new and the old song, an example comes to mind that I hope will be helpful.

I want to illustrate this from the experiences of a non-Christian rock band. Stay with me, I think you'll find this example quite illuminating.

One of the most fascinating advents of the rock-n-roll era has been the uncommon legacy of an American band called "The Grateful Dead." The driving force of the band was guitarist Jerry Garcia, who led the band with his innovative chord sequences and colorful harmonics. The group toured regularly from the late 1960's until Garcia's death in 1995.

The band would go through their customary songs during their concerts but then at some point would shift gears. Turning from their prepared repertoire, they would launch out into an improvisational riff, find a groove that was working musically, and then begin to push the envelope. The drummer would throw in unusual syncopations; the guitars would whine and scream creatively; the keyboard would strain for color and dissonance. Together, they would move out to the edge of almost losing one another musically, but yet would follow each other's improvisational initiatives closely enough so that they stayed together. And then they would begin to grope for "it." "It" was what would sometimes happen in the midst of one of these improvisational free-for-alls. Occasionally, the band would catch a wave of momentum, an emotional energy would ripple through the auditorium, a power would grip both the band members

and the audience, and the concert would take off into another dimension. They had found "it."

When this happened—whatever it was—the concert hall became an explosive altar of spiritual encounter. Everybody in the place knew that a line had been crossed, the transition had been made, and now the night became a pulsating celebration of connectedness to a cosmic consciousness. It became unclear whether the band or the audience was leading, as the concert became a participatory dance that included every attendee. It was spirit, and it was palpably real.

The spiritual atmosphere that filled the concerts was so powerfully compelling, in fact, that many fans became spiritual followers, actually making the Grateful Dead their religion. They called themselves Dead Heads. Garcia was viewed by many as their spiritual leader and came to be dubbed "the godfather," a term he privately disliked. Fans would get in their Volkswagen vans and follow the band from city to city, reserving their place in one concert after another. If it didn't happen in one concert—that is, if they didn't cross the spiritual threshold—then they would just pick up and go to the next one, knowing that eventually it would happen again.

Once the transition was made in a concert, a spiritual energy would actually take over. It was as though the band members could read each other's minds. They instinctively knew where the others were going, what song would be sung next, or what the next chord was going



by **Bob Sorge**

to be. The power on the stage was intoxicating as the band held the hearts of multiplied thousands in their hands.

One former Dead Head told me that when the concert would crescendo, the crowd would empty their pockets and begin to share what they had with one another. Quite often it would be some form of a drug, but the fact remains that a generosity would overtake the crowd. I was also told that when the throngs would eventually leave the stadium, they would shuffle out quietly except that they would bleat like sheep.

My Personal Amazement

When I first learned about what happened in these concerts, I was totally fascinated. Having grown up in a Christian family, I never went to a secular concert of any kind during my growing up years, much less a Grateful Dead concert. I knew what it was like to be in a Christian meeting and have a holy anointing but I had no idea there was a counterfeit anointing that operated in a similar way at secular concerts. So I wanted to learn more about this dynamic.

A friend of mine used to play guitar in a variety of bands during his younger, pre-Christ years, and he told me all the bands of the day would look to the Grateful Dead as their role model. They would all try to find the same kind of improvisational groove and spiritual momentum, but they couldn't ever reach quite the same plateau for some reason.

Now, I have a bit of a confession to make. I'm not proud of this, but it's the truth. It really happened to me. Back in the 1970's, when I was going through some of my teenage crisis years, I went through about a five-year period when I listened regularly to Top 40 Radio.

So as they're telling me the story of the Grateful Dead, I'm scrolling back to my recollections of 1970's rock-n-roll. "Grateful Dead...Grateful Dead...let me think. What was a song on the radio by Grateful Dead?" And I couldn't think of a single Top 40 hit performed by that group.

That's when I was told, "The Grateful Dead didn't have any hits." Apparently they had no hit albums, nor hit singles. The power of the band was not in their ability to produce hits but was rather in the power of their live concerts. (Imagine my surprise to learn they were the number one top grossing rock-n-roll band in the world for at least 30 years, even without a single hit album.)

For that reason, there is an active internet industry, up to the present day, of fans who sell or swap recordings of concerts that reach back 35 or more years. The band had the policy of allowing fans to bring portable cassette recorders into the concerts, so as a result there are a host of homemade recordings that are still being duplicated and sold between fans worldwide. The Grateful Dead did produce some studio recordings, but that's not primarily what the fans want. The greatest demand remains for the low-fidelity, home-spun recordings that carry the unpolished, spontaneous ambience of the live concerts.

One reason I was so fascinated by these accounts of their concerts was because I had no idea, growing up in my Christian world, that there was an unholy river. I knew there was a holy river of God to be found in worship, but I had no idea that Satan, the master counterfeiter, had devised a way to harness the power of music to sweep the hearts of the undiscerning into a river that leads to death.

When this river began to take over the concerts, Mickey Hart (one of the band members) coined a term to describe what was happening. He would say, "It's when the seventh man shows up." So I asked my friends what he meant by that term. Apparently there were six people in the band at the time he coined the phrase. He was recognizing that there was a power present in the concert that went beyond the members of the band. There was a spiritual presence which gave to the band an impact that exceeded the sum of the parts.

The Grateful Dead had found the river—the other river—and used it to promote their own agenda. But I will say this to their credit: They discovered more of what God intended through music than have most churches today. It is here that the saying applies, "I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation" (Deuteronomy 32:21). We who have the right to the great river of God stay back in the shallows

of our rigid service orders and miss the fullest purpose for which God created music.

The Fourth Man

My point in this chapter is not to talk about The Grateful Dead *per se*. The point I want to make is that where there is the counterfeit, it is testimony to the existence of the genuine.

**There is a fiery river to
be found in God,
and when we find it,
it is a blazing inferno
in which the
Fourth Man,
Jesus Christ, reveals
Himself.
In this fire,
bondages are
burned away...**

The experiences of a secular band only serve to substantiate that there is a reality that is available to us in God—a river of divine glory that can be touched in corporate worship.

When they touched their river, they described it as "when the seventh man shows up." But when we touch our river, I prefer to call it "when the Fourth Man shows up."

I'm referring to the time when Nebuchadnezzar threw the three Hebrew slaves into his fiery furnace, but when he looked into the flame, he saw not only three men walking around, but also the form of a Fourth in the fire (read Daniel 3). And the Fourth looked like the Son of God—because that's who He was!

There is a fiery river to be found in God, and when we find it, it is a blazing inferno in which the Fourth Man, Jesus Christ, reveals Himself. In this fire, bondages are burned away. (The ropes were burned off the hands of the Hebrew men.) In this fire, there are manifestations of the Glory of God. There are healings and miracles; there is power to be delivered from demonic snares; there is a holy anointing that causes unbelievers to fall on their face in conviction, to confess their sins, and to leave the meeting saying, "If you go to that place, you will meet up with God!" (1 Corinthians 14:25).

Oh God, evermore give us these waters to drink!

[This entire book in English can be downloaded for free at:<http://oasishouse.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/FollowingTheRiver4th.pdf>
Bob Sorge is a teacher and author. Having served as a senior pastor for thirteen years, Bob now travels domestically and abroad. Bob and his wife, Marci, live in Kansas City, Missouri with their three children and six grandchildren].

JEWS in NEWS

The Oldest Jew in the World, Leaves the World

Super-centenarian Evelyn (Chava Rivka) Kozak the oldest Jew in the world, passed away on June 11, 2013. She lived 113 years and 301 days.

Since her passing, scores have write-ups have come up about her life and personality. However, it is the quality of her life, rather than the amount of years, that is truly newsworthy.

The Torah records that “Avraham was old, he came into days” (Genesis 24:1). Some commentaries explain the cryptic “came into days” to mean that Avraham’s uniqueness was not that he lived for 175 years (!), but rather it tells us that he lived each and every day to its fullest.

An Honest Inheritance

Mrs. Kozak was born to Russian emigrants Isaac and Kate (Chaikin) Jacobson in Manhattan in 1899. Her parents worked their way up from nothing and eventually became quite wealthy. Despite the extreme challenges of keeping Shabbat in America back then, they struggled to raise their nine children as observant Jews – even without Jewish schools or basic infrastructure. They were among the first Jews to live in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn, at a time when Jews weren’t welcome there, and helped pave the way for what would later become a center of Jewish life.



Someone commented, “You saw her belief in God in the way she helped others. If someone is unaware that God is watching, you could go through life thinking only about yourself. It’s not always so comfortable to do what’s right, but that’s what my bubbly did all her life.” She was an avid Scrabble player until she turned 95. When someone observed once that she was very honest, she responded: “Honesty doesn’t come in degrees. You are either honest, or not.”

Mrs. Kozak was married in 1921 and had five children. She suffered through many hardships, including several life-threatening illnesses, the Great Depression, the death of a spouse and two children, and the loss of much of her eyesight. In 1929, when she was deathly ill, she received a blessing for health and long life from Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn. She often attributed her longevity to this blessing. “The Rebbe blessed me too well,” she would joke.

Her statement is a tester for most of us which I wish everyone could say with her, “I [think]

I] lived so long because I never harmed anyone, and always tried to help everyone.”

When Mrs. Kozak had a stroke in a nursing home at age 110, the medical staff stopped feeding her. When the family arrived, they were furious. But the staff told the family: “She’s 110. She’s lived long enough.”

“It is so presumptuous to think they know when someone is supposed to die,” Mrs. Polon said passionately. “It’s a too-common attitude in the medical field today that there is less need to preserve the life of the elderly. The Torah teaches us that every second of life is a precious gift – regardless of how old you are.”

A natural extension of Mrs. Kozak’s love for life, was her love of children. This was undoubtedly because she shared their joy, curiosity, and love of life, and like a child, she was always growing.

Although Mrs. Kozak grew up observant, at the advanced age of 110, she decided to take on new observances, at the suggestion of her 12-year-old great-granddaughter.

“Love surpasses everything,” Mrs. Kozak once said. “You could have beautiful cars, furs, everything. But if you don’t have love, you don’t have much.”



The Singer Giant

**"Next to the word of God,
the noble art of music is the
greatest treasure in the world.
It controls our hearts, minds and
spirits. A person who does not
regard music as a marvelous
creation of God does not deserve
to be called a human being;
he should be permitted to hear
nothing but the braying of asses
and the grunting of hogs!"**

~Dr. Martin Luther
[Reformer]

Sometimes I feel that the Christian hymnal, with all its ancientness of language, lyrics and notations that look like shapes and designs are becoming history with the new and the contemporary songs that are taking over the newer and younger generations. However, with one line singing of songs like ‘Oh Lord my God...’ I feel my spine straighten up and my soul awaken for a newer and fresher awakening, spiritually. And when such voices and such profound and meditative hymns come from the voice of men like George Beverly Shea, it is just short of a celestial voice; but an earthly voice with a celestial theme is a rarity. It is no wonder to hear from Dr. Billy Graham, who had heard many wonderful singers, but after singing

with such great singers, his humble but sincere tribute to his lifetime friend and coworker was... “I’ve been listening to Bev Shea sing for more than 50 years, and I would still rather hear him sing than anyone else I know.” Shea is best known for his rendition of “How Great Thou Art,” the English translation by Rev. Stuart K. Hine of the Swedish song “O Store Gud,” written in 1886 by Rev. Carl Boberg [1859–1940]. A longtime associate and friend of Billy Graham and BGEA, George Beverly Shea had been the model man of Christian Gospel singing in North America and the world over. Nicknamed, “America’s beloved Gospel singer,” Shea had served well his generation until he was called to glory on April 16, 2013.

It is said that in each crusade Shea “brings a quiet solo immediately preceding...Graham’s message.

His solo serves as a transition from the song service into the message.” Collins indicates: “Shea’s solos set the tone for the preacher’s messages. With his full, rich baritone Shea not only charmed audiences, he also touched them with the message of each song he chose.” Graham said that Shea always prepared his crowds by singing before the message, and he felt the song was more powerful than the sermon.

In 1932 Shea composed the tune

to “I’d Rather Have Jesus,” the words of which were written by Rhea F. Miller (1894–1966), the wife of Dr. Howard Miller. When RCA signed Shea to a recording contract, “the song that the company chose to initially spotlight their new singer was “I’d Rather Have Jesus.” Shea also wrote both the lyrics and music for “The Wonder of It All.”

Shea had been nominated for 10 Grammy Awards, Gold Angel Award for Country Music award by Religion in Media in Hollywood, California, Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award, Integrity Award, Gospel Music Association Canada apart from many other honours and awards. Shea was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame by the Gospel Music Association and for his lifelong contribution to gospel music.



“Bev was the person asked to join me in evangelism. He was well known in midwest, but at the same time he was humble; he couldn’t say no, even to a Fuller-Brush salesman [like me]! It was God who brought us together.”



Conversations

City Under God's Canopy

**Steve Dennis**

Mayor, Grandview, Missouri

with Team FoL

The phone rang in the City Counsellor's office in Grandview Missouri. It was Myrtle an octogenarian African-American lady living alone in an old house.

Her voice was brittle. She spoke to Steve about a letter she received from the city office requiring her to repair her gutter that had fallen off her house. Amidst sobbing and weeping, she explained her financial inability to repair the gutter and her physical condition why she would not get on to the roof and do the needful. Steve felt a churn in his stomach and a tug in his heart. Wasting no time, Steve took to action. The next Saturday, Steve and his buddies, went to the local hardware stores, took a gutter and a gallon of paint and appeared at Myrtle's residence. In a few hours the guys fixed the guttering, did a little painting and a little landscaping and were done. Before leaving the place, they called Myrtle to say, good-bye and assure her that everything was taken care of. She had no words to respond and so she did it with her tears.

Steve, asked, "Myrtle, what's wrong." In a broken words, her feeble voice uttered, "I never knew that white people could love black people to such an intimate act of kindness." She explained how she grew up with the hatred of the white people where she grew up. She explained how her family suffered the racial hatred and how her brother was lynched to death during the years of America's racial conflict.

For a moment, Steve's friends who were all whites realised how their weekend work made an old lady's day. While mending her home, they healed her heart and hurts in an act of racial reconciliation.

Steve remembers having prayed a prayer as a teenager, "Lord bring prodigal fathers back home and to back to You; bring back lost children back to their parents and back to You. A prayer I prayed as a single teenager, is a prayer being prayed by hundreds for the nations every day in a 24/7 prayer center called the International House of Prayer in our city.

Steve Denis was then the City Counsellor and the executive director of Matters of the Heart. He is now the man in the Chair of the Mayor. The commitment he made as a young boy had not waned in the years; now as the Mayor, he keeps his heart beating for Christ for his city, the Grandview, Missouri. He takes his work as a full-time ministry and believes that ministry need not be just from behind the pulpit but from where He put us in our profession. Steve and Kelli are the proud parents of Tyler, Cody and Aubree. Steve was met by the editor of *Fountain of Life* in his office where he spoke his heart for God and Grandview, city.



How and why did you come be a Christian? How was your life before coming to Christ?

During my growing up times, there wasn't a whole lot of life before then and so there isn't much to compare or complain with now. While in my seventh year, I began to question questions about natural and spiritual issues. I was glad to be raised in a Christian home where both my parents were Christians. I was asking myself these questions, I was also asking parents these questions. During that time, I felt a gentle tug in my heart that said that there was more to life than just living for myself. I made a decision then and wanted something more to add in my life. I wanted to follow a Higher Being and wanted to be sure that it is the right Higher Being because I knew there were many religions out there. I've always been a spiritual

being and had these spiritual questions of life. Though I became a believer in Jesus, I really feel I have not fallen in love with Jesus until I was fifteen or seventeen years. I am in my late forties now and I feel I have not even come closer to loving Jesus fully and intimately, however I have made a great progress spiritually walking with Christ everyday.

What is the biggest challenge you face being the Mayor of the city...and how does your Christian faith come to aide you?

In a secular setting it is somewhat difficult to present yourself properly. Whenever I go to speak, I always wanted to speak from my heart rather sound political. There are many religions in my city and people come from many walks of life and so I want to be careful not to do anything intentionally and step on their toes and offend them, instead I choose to speak generically. I often like to speak on the community and that is so important to me. Any city must have a good community where people care for each other and show concern for each other. It is the bond of love that must be pivotal in the community. Now, when I preach politically, it is about the community, to help the person next door and look for needy people in the neighbourhood. I sprinkle the talk with words like the good Lord, the *Good Book* instead using the word, the Bible. Everyone understands what I am talking about, whether they believe about God thing or not. God said that we should love our neighbours as ourselves and that is all we talk about and have the word practiced. There may be atheists and people from other religions but community is where we can practice our love for our neighbours. I believe our city has changed a lot in the recent past. Not just because of my talking but because of a new spirit of benevolence in our city. With this attitude and spirit, I see our city changing. I see our city government change, our business community and the young people. And I can only thank God for all this...I can see clearly the hand of God behind all this.

What impact do you wish to leave behind for future generations?

I believe in the spiritual realm that a person who is given a political authority has also certain amount of spiritual authority. I believe that the spoken Word has power in the spiritual realm and how it effects the physical realm as well. Pretty much every day, I give over this city to God. I speak His blessing over this city every day. I speak His spirit of benevolence every day. I speak His peace, His authority, prosperity, joy and happiness on this city every day. I believe this makes a change. I do not know what comes after me, but long after I am gone, I know these words are sealed over this city and these words I believe will have an impact in the years to come.

I do not believe in leaving behind a legacy of Steve Dennis rather a legacy of a transformed city whose flag post is of love and kindness to each other in the community. Grandview, Missouri must be transformed with such a legacy that people must look to this city as a prosperous city, a city of peace and security. This must make people bring in their business, move families in here, plant industries and anything for that matter while making the residents feel this place as a safe haven. In brief, 'Grandview city must ever be under God's canopy of favour.'

I have lived in this city and in the same house for 43 years. This city was not as good as it is now, but things have changed in the last five to ten years. It is my prayer and hope that this would progress in that direction way into the future, even after I leave the office.

How do you wish Steve Dennis to be remembered as?

I would rather like to be remembered as a person who cared deeply about the city and about the people. I wish to be remembered as a person who cared to transform people and their lives rather than transforming just businesses, streets and the administration in the government. I like to be remembered that God reigned in this city and rein long after my exit from this city.

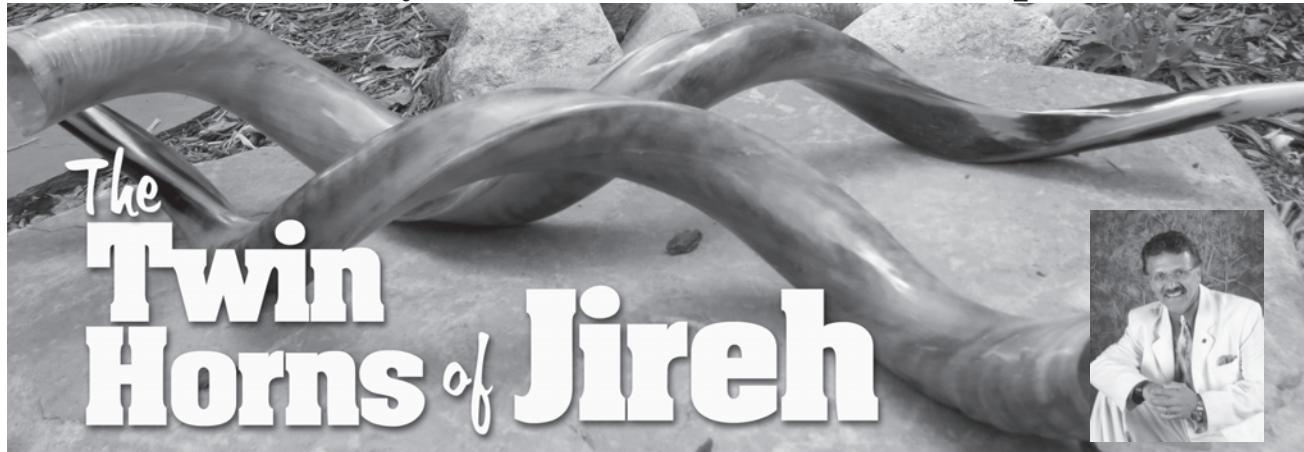


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I speak His spirit of benevolence every day. I speak His peace, His authority, prosperity, joy and happiness on this city every day.



The Dynamics of Praise and Worship



by Dr. David Brown

The Spiritual Ministry of the Shofar and the Holy Horn of Anointing

The shofar or the ram's horn alarm device, was the Old Testament secret weapon of choice by the Israelites for war! The reason that we refer to it as a weapon and an alarm device is that the shofar in the Bible is specifically NOT a musical instrument as we think of a trumpet as being. It is used in the ancient times much as we would use the sound of a siren today. We don't refer to sirens as musical instruments and the Hebrews did not refer to the shofar as a musical instrument in the same way. The rams horn is a device that is hollow, and open at both ends. One end is narrow and one end is wide. The person blowing the shofar blows the horn at the small end, as you would sound a bugle. The sound widens and is amplified as it exits the large end. The shofar alarms with the sound of a RUSHING AND A MIGHTY WIND! Acts 2:2.



The shofar was used in these following ways:

As the Torah was given by God at Sinai the shofar sounded exceedingly loud, Ex. 19:19.

The shofar was sounded at the start of the year of Jubilee on Yom Teruah (Feast of trumpets), Lev.25:9-10. The shofar was blown to announce the beginning of festivals or holy days, Num. 10:10. The shofar was used to conquer the stronghold city of Jericho, Josh.6:20. The shofar was used by the judge Gideon to confuse, scatter, and to defeat the hosts of Midian.

The shofar was used to signal the mobilization assembly of the Israelites for war.

Seven Shofars were used to bring up the Ark of the Lord into it's resting place in Jerusalem, I Chronicles 15:24, II Samuel 6:15. Oaths were taken before the Lord with the sound of trumpets and shofar, II Chronicles 15:14. Shofar were used for the coronation of Kings of Israel, I Kings 1: 34, 39. The Blowing of the shofar is the signal for national corporate repentance, Is. 58:1, Hosea 8:1. Seven Shofars sound as extreme judgements upon the earth during the time of Great Tribulation, or Jacobs Trouble. The Shofar is spiritually the sound of God's voice, Rev.1: 10. The Apostle John was caught up to the throne

room of Heaven at the sound of the shofar, Rev. 4:1. The blowing of the shofar instigates and ignites the awesome day of the Lord, Joel 2:1. The shofar is blown to initiate a solemn assembly of repentance, Joel 2:15. The sound of the shofar of God will wake the sleeping saints of God and change the living saints instantaneously into the likeness of the resurrected Christ at the catching up or the (Greek) "Harpazo" rapture of the church. I Thessalonians 4:16-17. The Shofar marks the day of the beginning of creation, Gen. 1:1 Hebrew torah.

The shofar is to remind us of the voices and messages of God's prophets, the Nevi'im Joel 2:1.

The sounding of the shofar reminds us of the final ingathering of the Jewish people of the dispersion to the covenant land of Israel, Is. 27:13.

The sounding of the shofar reminds us of the binding of Itzchak (Isaac), to the altar stone of Zion and the intervention of The covenant of Jehovah Jireh, Gen. 22:9-13.

These memorials of the shofar of God and what they mean to us today, as believers in Christ can be summed up together by saying that the first horn of the ram of Moriah represents the power of PRAISE in the Life of The Christian at this very moment! You and I have been given the two fold horns of God's ram of Jireh, The SHOFAR REPRESENTING THE POWER OF PRAISE, and now we will study the second horn of GOD'S AUTHORITY IN WORSHIP, THE HOLY ANOINTING HORN.

THE HOLY ANOINTING HORN OF GOD'S AUTHORITY IN WORSHIP

The Holy Anointing Horn is first brought to light and analysis in scripture, in I Samuel 16:1. is a command from Jehovah to Samuel, the last judge of Israel, to go and anoint David, son of Jesse of the hamlet of Bethlehem. Previously Samuel had anointed the first king of Israel with a vial of oil, in I Sam. 10:1. The word vial means a man made flask or box. God rejected Saul from being King for the sin of disobedience, cutting off his line of rule because of a man made anointing, proving that the anointing from the man made cannot compete with the anointing from the horn of Jireh the Horn of God's Authority. This is proven scripturally, because God gave David's dynasty endless reign in the house of Israel, II Samuel 7: 16-17.

The shofar of God's power of praise is hollow at two ends representing the body and the soul of man exercised through the action of praising God. The Holy anointing Horn is hollow at one end representing only the spirit of man in worship.

**THE ACT OF PRAISE IS THE ART OF MAKING WAR!
THE ACT OF WORSHIP IS THE ART OF MAKING LOVE!**

Jesus assured the woman at the well, that The father was looking for worshippers to worship him not in a physical place, Samaria, or Jerusalem, but in Spirit and in Truth, John 4:24. Worship is reserved only for the redeemed wife of Jehovah or the bride of Christ. That means natural Israel or the redeemed Church of the Lord Jesus. The Church being the Spirit, for we have been grafted into the Abrahamic covenant by the Spirit through faith Romans 11:17, Galatians



<http://hewalkswithus.wordpress.com/>

Many a conqueror has been an awesome warrior
but then a horrendous ruler following his victory.

We conquer by the Shofar of Praise,
but then in turn we rule through the
Holy Anointing Horn of WORSHIP.



3:13-14. Then natural, physical Israel are invited to worship in truth or the word of the covenant, John 17:17. The anointing according to the prophet Isaiah is the burden removing yoke destroying power of God, Is. 10: 27. There were only three classes of individuals that were anointed in the Old Testament and still today in the New Testament, and they are, PROPHETS, PRIESTS, and KINGS! THE ACT OF WORSHIP, EMPOWERS AND EQUIPTS US TO RULE THE KINGDOM AS CHRIST'S REGENTS IN THE EARTH, THE ACT OF PRAISE EMPOWERS AND EQUIPTS US TO CONQUER THE KINGDOM OF SPIRIT REBELS. Many a conqueror has been an awesome warrior but then a horrendous ruler following his victory. We conquer by the Shofar of Praise, but then in turn we rule through the Holy Anointing Horn of WORSHIP. The anointing is the manifestation of the person of the Holy Spirit through the Gifts of the Spirit, of I Cor. 12. SO in effect when we worship God we are pouring out from our Spirits rivers of anointing, and in effect releasing natural manifestations of the power of God BY MY SPIRIT SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS!

WORSHIP is making love to God by releasing the Holy Spirit to empower others to prophesy as the prophets of Old moved by the Holy Spirit, to TAKE KINGS DOMINION, and to release others to MINISTER TO THE LORD IN THE PRIESTLY OFFICE AGAIN OF WORSHIP ITSELF! King David is the Father of Praise and Worship, and therefore we will be studying next week the Restoration of Davidic Worship in the Household of the son of David, THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST!



Legend of Legends **Billy the Legend**

by Sunny Joseph

December 14, 2012. The world mourned while America wailed when the 20 year, Adam Lanza, 20, shot twenty children and six adult staff members in a mass murder at Sandy Hook Elementary School in the village of Sandy Hook in Newtown, Connecticut. Innocently or intentionally many asked, "Why Lord?" and "Where is God?" How strange, that we demand answers from the Divine for our intentional wrong actions. Are we not warned that we reap what we sow? Remember, Madalyn Murray O Hair? She led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling ending officially the tradition of Bible-reading in American public schools in 1963 bringing to an end in one sweeping challenge the 343 years' tradition of Bible reading, prayer and reciting the Ten Commandments in public school in the US.

We removed God from our schools and when calamity hit our schools, we ask now, "God where are you?" Obama's reference to Bible in his memorial speech at the Sandy Hook Vigil seemed good. Alas, had we only remembered God and His Word before the calamity. Dr. Billy Graham, exhorted and warned the nation much before such calamities when he said, "I am in the favour of hanging the Ten Commandments in every school room in the country so young people can know the difference between right and wrong. They don't know the difference and we are seeing evidence of that all around us every day." Billy Graham, the greatest of evangelists, yet, the most simplest of preachers, had been a voice of heaven on earth for more than fifty years. He has a father's hearts and shepherd's concern for America and the world for he considered the 'world his parish.'



As someone said, "Each time I hear Billy speak, I feel like walking the aisle and praying the 'sinner's prayers, again.'" As one editorial review wrote, "Over the course of seven decades, the Rev. Billy Graham befriended every occupant of the White House, from Harry Truman to George W. Bush." He had been a counsellor, prayer partner and a preacher to the presidents and dignitaries and diplomats. Billy is the only person who frequented the White House more times for a length of time than any one single President of the White House. Every U.S. President since World War II [till date] had met with Billy Graham, both Johnson and Nixon, the two who probably sought him the most, offered him high positions in government — which he quickly and politely refused. [<http://www.billygraham.org>]

Looking at the life of Rev. Dr. Billy Graham KBE, [Honorary Knight Commander of the order of the British Empire] one would wonder, how one man in one single life could scale such great heights, that would be beyond human comprehension to understand the mystery of his fame. To many, even to his closest acquaintances, the man Billy has been a wonder. The word 'legend' is far too an insufficient word to explain in one article the 'Billy phenomena' and what God had wrought through him in his life time. Even, the words 'legends of legends' fall far too below to portray the man Billy in his entirety. Only heaven must record the accolades he brought for heaven and for earth. The world is too small for a man who so greatly lived his life in the service of God. Someone rightly said it, that the greatest leaders are the most strikingly the simplest, ever humbling yet, always growing in fame and popularity. The secret of his growth Billy Graham always owed it to God, and never claimed it to be his own.

The Man - Billy is...

Billy the boy grew up like any other young American teenager. He dated, played baseball, did house chores, and helped parents in the farm. In both boyhood and youth he was just another regular kid on the block who grew up naturally and played mischief. He grew up reading novels, history and Tarzan and loved climbing trees aping Tarzan. His life turned a U turn when as a teenager he made a decision for Christ, a decision that defined who he was, as an individual and as a man the world admired for the rest of his life. The decision though was simple and early in life, yet it cost him the rest of his life to be away from family, friends, sacrificing home, anniversaries and living with kids while in their growing years.

His warmth and love were the flag posts of his personality both in the ministry and at home. He gave his due time and fulfilled his duties as a son and as a sibling at home which was felt personally by each one at home. Billy's most loved person in the world was his mother.

Sketching his persona, his sister Catherine Graham McElroy testified, "He hasn't changed toward family and friends in spite of his having been with friends and dignitaries throughout the world." Billy always said, "I want to be flexible so that I can change plans at the last minute if necessary, to go and do what I believe the Holy Spirit would have me to do-like Phillip [Acts 8] who was suddenly whisked away to talk to one man, the Ethiopian nobleman-which was not in his date book." At a time when the US was undergoing the worst period on racial issues, Billy stood against segregation and racism. He even invited civil rights activist

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., to share the stage in a crusade in New York in 1957. When Rev. Luther was imprisoned in Birmingham Billy bailed him out. He stood for equality what the Bible teaches. He said, "There is no scriptural basis for segregation", Graham argued, "The ground at the foot of the cross is level, and it touches my heart when I see whites standing shoulder to shoulder with blacks at the cross."

The Husband - Billy was...

How on earth would a man who was out travelling the world taking the world for Christ, and still keep a track of family and growing kids? Though Billy regrets not having spent adequate time with family and kids, he was sure his absence at home was covered by Ruth who early in their marriage assured him, "God has given you the gift of an evangelist." Billy said about her commitment to family, "that she would keep the home and rear the kids, while he took to travel the world and preach the Word. He often said, "Without Ruth's partnership and encouragement over the years, my own work would have been impossible. Ruth and I were called by God as a team." Ruth gloried in her calling as a wife and a mother and did her best to play both the roles to strike a perfect balance.

Concerning her choice for a future life partner, Ruth Bell wrote this in her journal 1939 before she met Billy.

"Dear God, I prayed, all unafraid [as we're inclined to do] I do not need a handsome man but let him [my future husband] be like you: I do not need one big and strong nor yet so very tall, nor need he be some genius or wealthy. Lord, at all; but let his head be high. Dear God, and let his eye be clear, his

"I want to be flexible so that I can change plans at the last minute if necessary,
to go and do what I believe the Holy Spirit would have me to do..."

Since his ministry began in 1947, Graham conducted more than 400 crusades and spoke to nearly 215 million people in more than 185 countries on six continents and territories—through various meetings, including Mission World and Global Mission. Hundreds of millions more have been reached through television, video, film, and webcasts. The Los Angeles Crusade in 1949 launched Mr. Graham into international prominence. Scheduled for three weeks, the meetings were extended to more than eight weeks, with overflow crowds filling a tent erected downtown each night. Many of his subsequent early Crusades were similarly extended, including one in London which lasted 12 weeks, and a New York City Crusade in Madison Square Garden in 1957 which ran nightly for 16 weeks.

During the Cold War, Graham became the first evangelist to speak behind the Iron Curtain, addressing large crowds in countries throughout Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union, calling for peace. He had penned 32 books including *Peace with God* which was translated into more than 38 languages which sold over 2 million and two of which hit the New York best sellers. He was awarded the "Ten Most Admired Men in the World" from the Gallup Poll since 1948 a total of 56 times, including 50 consecutive in 2012—more than any other individual in the world, placing him at the head of the overall list of those most admired by Americans for the past five decades. 'Who is Who' in America annually since 1954 apart from many prestigious awards. In short, as someone said, Billy Graham is In short Billy is dubbed as the authentic American hero.

shoulders straight, whatever his state, whatever his earthly sphere; and let his face have character, a ruggedness of soul, and let his whole life show, dear God, a singleness of goal, then when he comes [as he will come] with quiet eyes aglow, I'll understand that he's the man I prayed for long ago."

Sure enough, God honoured Ruth's prayer for God's chosen man as her husband. They were not angels and so did not have a perfect marriage, but had one that their kids admired and the world watched from close quarters and appreciated a family kept in rough weather and in happy seasons. Billy said, "Ruth and I don't have a perfect marriage, but we have a great one. For a married couple to expect perfection in each other is unrealistic, since no one is perfect." [Billy Graham, God's Ambassador, Word Publishing Group, BGEA, 1999]

Marriage is born in the heart of God and that is the reason why only a Christian marriage is called holy and honourable. Since marriage was God 's idea and was created by God, the rule of running a marriage must be purely guided by Him the rules of which are embedded in the scriptures, which is

God's manual for marriage and life. Billy said, "I have been asked the question, 'Who do you go to for counsel, for spiritual guidance?' My answer: My wife, Ruth. She is the only one I completely confide in. She is a great student of the Bible. Her life is ruled by the Bible more than any person I've ever known. That's her rule book, her compass. Her disposition is the same all the time—very sweet, very gracious and very charming." He continued, "When it comes to spiritual things, my wife has had the greatest influence on my history." Thus shall a marriage founded and built on the Holy Scriptures flourish and Billy is one of millions of examples to prove that marriages could be enjoyed as the greatest adventures and experiences. Billy and Ruth, were an unbeatable combination.

The Father - Billy is...

Candice Z. Watters write in an article, "There is a peace in life that comes from having no regrets. Let's count the cost





"I guess one thing that has always impressed me over the years has been the humility of my parents and their integrity. They were always careful not to do anything that would hinder the Gospel." ~Franklin Graham

and invest in our families first. The world will wait." Though Billy has regrets of having spent not sufficient time with the family, yet, the little time he could spend was enough and God in His grace helped him sow solid seeds that bore him great fruit. Billy well knew the power of parenting and making home a haven of all the places in the world. He pronounced the beauty of this when he said "Home was a refuge for me, a place I could truly relax."

The strength of a chain lies in the weakest of the links. It is little or no surprise to see why many families fall apart in spite of good jobs, adequate finances, excellent careers and active social life. I think because, every new husband and a new father comes with no previous experience except what one learns and observes from one's own parents. Billy's primary exposure to being a perfect father came from his own home and from his parents. Billy said, "Both of my parents had a great influence on me. I never heard my father use a profane or even a slang word. I always respected him because of his complete integrity. In his business dealings his handshake was like a contract. He was as good as his word...The same principles and promises we applied to our children and still are true for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We pray for each one each day and spend time on weekends..."

No wonder Franklin Graham, Billy Graham's son said what he said, "I guess one thing that has always impressed me

over the years has been the humility of my parents and their integrity. They were always careful not to do anything that would hinder the Gospel."

In her own words Gigi Graham Tchividjian, Billy's daughter painted how human her father was, yet divinely gifted to display the love of God who is our Father in heaven. She wrote, "At the age of twelve or thirteen I had been very rude and daddy spanked me. I then asked him in anger what kind of a father he thought he was anyway, always being gone. Tears filled his eyes; it was the first I had seen tears in daddy's eyes. Afterward we talked it over, and I have never forgotten that experience. It was the first time I began to realise as a young adult how much he was giving up by being gone." Words spoken can be put aside, but words spoken and lived to practice become irresistible. Gigi continued, "Because of their example I respected them and I listened to their advice. I saw daddy live what he preached. I saw them making Christ their life –not just their religion."

Another of her daughter Ruth [Bunny] Graham McIntyre, "...As busy as daddy was, he spent time with me, he loved me, he prayed with me, he cried with me, that will always be a special memory."

Anne Graham Lotz testified, "...Daddy, even though the world acclaimed him as a great man...would still get on his knees and humbly ask the Lord for His guidance. Through all of this we learned that seeking God was not a sign of weakness but a sign of strength."



The *Graham* Clan Speaks

Cover Story

...in his own words...**Billy Graham**

FoL:What is your life's greatest contentment?

BG: I would have to say being with my grandchildren and my children, which is very rare. I look forward to it with tremendous anticipation when we can get together. I have a wonderful family of five children who are all terrific; speakers and writers. I'm so proud of them. And I'm content with the fact of who I am, where I'm going. I have no doubts that I'm going to heaven and that is a tremendous comfort to me.

FoL: What do you think is the secret of your successful ministry?

BG: I have often been asked the secret of evangelistic crusades, and I have said there are three secrets: 1. Prayer 2. Prayer 3. Prayer. No evangelist can ever have God's blessing on his ministry until he realizes his total dependence on the Holy Spirit. That means we need to prepare by prayer.

FoL:Two regrets you have [if any] in your life?

BG: I'd spend more time at home with my family, and I'd study more and preach less. I wouldn't have taken so many speaking engagements, including some of the things I did over the years that I probably didn't really need to do – weddings and funerals and building dedications, things like that. Whenever I counsel someone who feels called to be an evangelist, I always urge them to guard their time and not feel like they have to do everything.



FoL:What are the pitfalls of being the world's greatest evangelist?

BG: I do get weary of being maybe looked at as you would if you went to restaurants and things like that.

"I'd spend more time at home with my family, and I'd study more and preach less. I wouldn't have taken so many speaking engagements, ...Whenever I counsel someone who feels called to be an evangelist, I always urge them to guard their time and not feel like they have to do everything."

FoL: One message you have for the world today?

BG: The message has not changed at all in all these hundreds and thousands of years. It's the cross of Christ. It's the resurrection of Christ. It's the need to repent of your sins and receive Christ by faith. That's the main part of every message I preach.





FoL: The world is watching America...it is no more what it was and one wonders what it could be in the future...what is your message to Today's America?

BG: No election will ever solve America's most basic problems. That is because the trouble, at its root, is in the human heart, and the only path to true restoration—for a person or for a nation—is through repentance. The Bible says, "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19–20, ESV). Only the Gospel, God's Good News, has the power to change lives, heal hearts, and restore a nation.

FoL: What three things you always appreciate in Ruth?

BG: She was a great student of the Scriptures. We all knew that she was the spiritual leader of our family. If ever there was a woman that walked with God, it was her. She was both father and mother to our children. I have to give the credit to her because she stayed home while I traveled all over the world and she reared them and she taught them and she spanked them and she loved them and they all loved her. She was always positive about everything. She always said, "The best is yet to come," and "life is just beginning," even when she talked about death. She was always helping people. If somebody down the road needed some soup she took it to them. If some older lady needed to be taken on a shopping trip she took them. She was that kind of a person.

FoL: Any unfulfilled desire or part of the vision you still think is unaccomplished?

BG: It is my passionate, heartfelt desire to see God change hearts and lives in every community in America.

[These answers were compiled from previous answers that Mr. Graham has given in the past in response to similar questions.]

"No election will ever solve America's most basic problems. That is because the trouble, at its root, is in the human heart, and the only path to true restoration, for a person or for a nation, is through repentance."





The **Graham Clan Speaks**

...in my Father's Footsteps

C o v e r S t o r y

...in his own words...Franklin Graham

You are a legend in the making. With so many worldwide projects such as Samaritan's Purse and My Hope India which are superlative in their own sense, it is no ordinary responsibility being in the forefront of such great ministries. To many you are an enigmatic person in so many ways. What is your philosophy of life?

FG: I believe you just need to wake up each day and ask God "What do you want me to do?" and whatever or whever He is leading you follow it with all your heart. Just be obedient to Him.

SJ: Being the son of Dr. Billy Graham you must have had so many opportunities and open door ready-made while you must have also experienced the other side of the coin. Could you tell us both the advantages and disadvantages of being the son of a world famous preacher?

FG: People ask me all the time "What is it like being the son of Billy Graham?" but he's the only father I've ever had so I don't know what it is like to NOT be the son of Billy Graham. He's my father and I'm proud of him, but I also know that there is only one Billy Graham. No one else can replace him, I certainly don't want to even try to fill his shoes. I just want to do what God has called me to do and do it to the best of my abilities.

SJ: Does the preaching style and the approach to ministry that you have and that your father Dr. Billy Graham had, do they differ?

FG: There will always be similarities and differences, but the most important thing is the message. We are preaching the same message of Jesus Christ that my father has preached for more than 60 years.

SJ: Your father often stayed away from home on ministry assignment which affected the children to some extent or the other. How do you stay clear from such a things from being repeated in your family?

FG: I travel a lot but these days getting some where is easier than it was back then. Also, I'm a pilot so I fly myself whenever I go somewhere, so it's easier for me to get back home to be with my family.

"...there is only one Billy Graham. No one else can replace him, I certainly don't want to even try to fill his shoes. I just want to do what God has called me to do and do it to the best of my abilities."

The *Graham* Clan Speaks

...learning from my **Parents**

...in her own words... Ruth Graham



FoL: Being the daughter of celebrity parents, you have talked in a [website] about wearing a 'false smile' at times, pretending all is well, while 'all was not well.' How did you cope up with such pressures?"

RG. First, while I may be Billy and Ruth Bell Graham's daughter, that is not who I am but a part of what I am. I am first of all a child of The King and I have come to realize I have an audience of One! For many years, I tried to keep up appearance that all was well when, in fact, my life was falling apart. Trying to keep up the front led to deep depression and thoughts of suicide.

The pressures I felt were not due to my parent's celebrity status - they never put pressure on us. My pressures came from within. I wanted to be a "good Christian girl". I wanted to make Jesus look good - like Christianity worked! I felt like I was responsible for God's reputation. That was a heavy load and a standard I could not keep. Jesus doesn't even expect us to do that! The more I tried the worse it got. Finally I just quit trying. It was later in my life that I came to realize God had done it all and He could handle His own reputation. I could relax!

FoL: What lasting legacy did your mom leave with you personally that which was exclusively for you?

RG. I am not sure I have a lasting legacy from my mother that is exclusive to me. To me she had an amazing capacity for joy! Regardless of the circumstances. With the heavy responsibility of family, bills to pay, not enough money to meet the demands, being expected to act and dress appropriately although she was never trained for her position, a husband who was married to his ministry and often preoccupied, her life was far from easy. She chose joy! I now understand that her joy did not stem from perfect or ideal circumstances but from a deep, abiding love affair with the Lord Jesus. Her example was her legacy to all of us.

Perhaps my love of writing is a legacy she passed to me - but all of us write!

The things I admire in my father as a human being are many - I don't think I can limit them to 2. His graciousness, his integrity, his humility, his global worldview, his deep trust of God...



FoL: The world loved and admired your dad for many things. Talking like an individual and not as a daughter, what two things do you really admire in your dad?

RG. The things I admire in my father as a human being are many - I don't think I can limit them to 2. His graciousness, his integrity, his humility, his global worldview, his deep trust of God...

FoL: To whom much is given, much is asked of. The very fact that you are Dr. Billy Graham's daughter, a special tag comes attached to you. What do you expect to give back to the world a Billy daughter and God's child?

RG. I do not feel I have to give back to the world because I am Billy Graham's child. In some ways I feel as I have given enough...my father was gone so much. I give because I am God's child and I want to serve Him with my life. God has called me to motivate people by God's comfort and loving acceptance from a place of brokenness through wounded-ness to a place of wholeness. My ministry, Ruth Graham and Friends, is a safe place where people can begin their journey toward healing.

FoL: What is your special message to the women who struggle with unyielding real life situations?

RG. My message is not just for women but for everyone. When we are in pain by the fault of another (i.e. betrayal, rejection) life events (i.e. death, tragedy) or our own sinful choices, we know we are not alone. We have a Redeemer who is always with us. He loves us totally and is eager to give us aid if we but ask. We need not be bound in guilt and shame - we can be set free. God does not stop at ruins that are where He begins. He loves to restore broken lives.

That is a message of restoration for everyone!

[Ruth is the third child of Rev. Billy Graham and his wife Ruth Bell Graham. She is the Founder and President of Ruth Graham & Friends. www.ruthgrahamandfriends.com She is the author of several books, including the award-winning *Step into the Bible* (Zonderkidz 2007). Ruth makes her home with her family near Charlottesville, VA.]



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The **Graham** Clan Speaks

...being like my **Grandfather**



<http://donnas-30thbirthday.blogspot.com>

...in his own words...**Roy Graham**

SJ: What is it like being the grandson of Dr. Billy Graham?

RG: I am frequently asked this question, and my answer always had been, I have always been Dr. Billy Graham's grandson and I do not know of how it is 'like to Not to be his grandson.'

SJ: What is the most memorable moment with your grandfather?

RG: Of the many unforgettable moments with him, which are all profound to me, the most memorable are the ones which I can never forget and the impact they wrought one. I remember the time when I sat with my grandpa in many crusades when he preached the gospel and how thousands would come down walking to the front and receive Jesus as their personal Saviour. This always was profound as to how my granddad was instrumental in working with the Holy Spirit in drawing many people to the Lord's love. Memories of people getting saved and the rejoicing in heaven for every single soul always impressed upon my heart, and I want to be a soul winner for Christ until my last breathe...just like my grandfather.

SJ: What legacy of him do you carry in your life for now and for the future and to the glory of God?

RG: My grandfather who is weak in health now in his old years, he still has the passion to preach the good news of Jesus Christ as he always did. Once I asked, him, "If you have to preach another sermon, where would you like to preach?" Without taking time to think, he simply replied, "My last sermon, I would like to preach in India." That was very insightful to me as the Lord laid a burden for India upon my heart and I pray God would use this humble servant for His kingdom.

SJ: Your most unforgettable moment with grandma Ruth and the lasting impression she left on you?

RG: She was a woman of prayer and praying was what she always did. In our growing up years, she would cuddle us to tell stories and in her years of sickness and old age, she would still tell us stories and play with us. I wondered how she in the world she had the stamina to do what she does. I knew it later when I grew up, she was building into us her Christian life and family bond based on the scriptures.

"Memories of people getting saved and the rejoicing in heaven for every single soul always impressed upon my heart, and I want to be a soul winner for Christ until my last breathe...just like my grandfather."



The Graham Clan Speaks

...in my Saviour's **Footsteps**

Remembering Ruth

Ruth Graham died on June 14, 2007 at age 87 following a lengthy illness. Her husband's closest confidant, she was remembered as a spiritual stalwart and modest mentor who provided a solid foundation both biblically and geographically for her globe-trotting husband. The day before Ruth's death, Billy Graham released a statement through the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association stating, "Ruth is my soul mate and best friend, and I cannot imagine living a single day without her by my side. I am more and more in love with her today than when we first met over 65 years ago as students at Wheaton.

In a statement released from Wheaton College Thursday, Dr. Duane Litfin, president of the school, remarked, "Strong, steady, and dauntless, Ruth Bell Graham was the glue that held the many of the parts of their lives together." Understanding the importance of his calling, Ruth joined Rev. Graham willingly in his ministry, though she preferred her role to behind the scenes. Ruth treasured her role as the strong woman behind "America's Pastor" and was Billy's closest confidant, most trusted advisor, and dearest friend. She loved to move behind the scenes, away from the spotlight, and helped him craft and research sermons and even books.

A gifted poet and writer herself, Ruth authored or coauthored 14 books, including *Sitting by My Laughing Fire*, *Legacy of a Pack Rat*, *Prodigals and Those Who Love Them*, and *One Wintry Night*.

In an interview to *Decision* magazine:

On Her Personal Life

Most important is my personal walk and relationship with the Lord Jesus. I can't imagine life without Him. of the many Amy Carmichael, a missionary to India, had a great influence on my life.

On Her Family

My family brings me joy—I get so excited when family members are coming home. Sometimes I wonder if God feels that way when one of His children is about to come home.

To Young Mothers

Her advice to young mothers who are rearing children today is..." I would tell them to set up camp in the Scriptures. That's where they will find the guidance and the strength that they need. You can't beat the Psalms. I'm so glad that David wasn't always on top of everything, because we can identify with his trials, discouragement and weariness."

For those young mothers who are new Christians, I recommend that they spend time reading not only the Psalms but also Proverbs. Proverbs offers so much practical help for the home. My father read through the book of Proverbs every month, reading a chapter a day. I highly recommend that.

"The mama that we saw
at home was the
mama that the world saw,"
"...I thank you mama for
your example, for your love,
for your wit, for your humor,
for your craziness...
I love you for all of it and
I'm going to miss you terribly."
~Franklin Graham

Friend, Philosopher and Guide

Preacher to the Presidents

Mr. Graham has been invited to participate in a record 10 inaugurations, but due to a hospitalization a few days before the 54th presidential inauguration in 2001 was unable to fulfill his commitment to lead the invocation at then President-elect Bush's first inauguration...Mr. Graham's inaugural experience began with his attendance at President Eisenhower's swearing-in ceremony in 1953, although he did not participate in a presidential inauguration until he preached an inaugural day sermon for President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. Since that time he has participated in seven other inaugurations, including prayer and worship services for Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and Reagan, and has offered inaugural prayers for Presidents Nixon, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and both Clinton swearing-in ceremonies. Twice Mr. Graham has been invited by outgoing presidents to spend their last nights in the White House with their families Presidents Johnson and George H.W. Bush before offering prayers at the incoming administration's inaugural ceremonies the next day. -

Harry S. Truman — In 1950 a congressman called Billy and asked, "Would you like to meet the President?" Without any briefing on protocol, he agreed and went in with three colleagues and spoke with President Truman, who told Billy he lived by the Sermon on the Mount. Before he left, the two prayed together. Years later, Truman warmly received Billy at his home in Independence, Missouri.

Dwight D. Eisenhower — "Eisenhower was the first President that really asked my counsel in depth when he was sending troops into Little Rock," said Mr. Graham. Just before Eisenhower died, Billy was invited to see him at Walter Reed Hospital. After talking again about assurance of salvation, the two men prayed. Eisenhower then said he was ready to die.

"Billy Graham is one of the best ambassadors our country has but he told me, 'I am an ambassador of heaven.'" — Dwight D. Eisenhower

John F. Kennedy — Four days before he was inaugurated as President, John Kennedy invited Mr. Graham to spend

the day with him in Palm Beach. "We drove around in JFK's white Lincoln convertible," said Billy. "During our conversations, I became aware that he was concerned about the moral and spiritual condition of the nation." During Kennedy's funeral service in the Capitol rotunda, Billy stood about 30 feet from Mrs. Kennedy and the family, and thought about the brevity of life and how people must prepare to meet God.

Lyndon B. Johnson — There was a religious side to Lyndon Johnson that people did not know. Billy was probably closer to Johnson than to any other President. He was invited to the family ranch several times and spent more than 20 nights at the White House during Johnson's administration. Every time Billy would say to him, "Let's have a prayer," the President would get on his knees to pray.

"My mind went back to those lonely occasions at the White House when your friendship helped to sustain a President in an hour of trial." — Lyndon Johnson in a letter to Billy Graham





Billy was with President and Barbara Bush at the White House in 1991, the night that the Gulf War began. "Billy Graham has been an inspiration in my life," said Bush. "It is my firm belief that no one can be President ... without understanding the power of prayer, without faith.

And Billy Graham helped me understand that."

~George W.H Bush



Richard M. Nixon — President Nixon and Billy had been personal friends since 1950. Nixon was a private and complex person, but beneath the surface, Billy found him to be warm and compassionate, quite different from popular caricatures. He was rooted in the teachings and prayers of his Quaker faith. Often he asked Billy to pray with him and read the Bible when he would visit. In the last year of Nixon's presidency, Billy did not get to see him. Someone on the White House later relayed that Nixon said, "Don't let Billy Graham near me, I don't want him tarred with Watergate."



Gerald R. Ford — Answering critics of his relationship with Billy, Gerald Ford said, "I've heard the comments from some sources that Billy mixes politics with religion. I never felt that and I don't think that thousands and thousands of people who listen to him felt that. Billy dropped by the Oval Office on several occasions while I was President. They were get-togethers of old friends. They had no political or other significance."



Jimmy Carter — "Billy and Ruth Graham have been to visit us both in the governor's mansion in Georgia and in the White House," said Jimmy Carter. "His reputation is above reproach or suspicion." Back in 1966, Carter chaired a BGEA film crusade in Americus, Ga., and when he was governor, served as an honorary chairman of the Atlanta Crusade.



Ronald W. Reagan — Billy met Ronald Reagan a year after he married Nancy. The two remained close friends. "I remember when Reagan was president of the Screen Actors Guild, a union leader, and a very strong Democrat," Billy said. On March 30, 1981, after the assassination attempt on President Reagan's life, Billy flew immediately to Washington, D.C., to comfort and pray with Mrs. Reagan, and do anything he could for the President.



"It was through Billy Graham that I found myself praying even more than on a daily basis ... and that in the position I held, that my prayers more and more were to give me the wisdom to make decisions that would serve God and be pleasing to Him." — Ronald Reagan



George H. W. Bush — Mr. Graham has said he found George H.W. Bush easy to talk to about spiritual issues, "easier than other Presidents I have met. He says straight out that he has received Christ as his Savior and that he is a born-again believer." Billy was with President and Barbara Bush at the White House in 1991, the night that the Gulf War began. "Billy Graham has been an inspiration in my life," said Bush. "It is my firm belief that no one can be President ... without understanding the power of prayer, without faith. And Billy Graham helped me understand that."

"Billy and Ruth Graham have practiced the ministry of...being friends with Presidents of both parties...always completely private, always completely genuine."

~William J. Clinton



William J. Clinton — President Clinton once recalled, "When I was a small boy, about 12 years old, Billy Graham came to Little Rock, Arkansas, to preach a Crusade." Mr. Graham would not agree to segregate the audience racially, which made an impression on the young boy. When he was governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton joined Billy Graham at a Little Rock Crusade in 1989. Mr. Graham also visited Clinton in the Oval Office after he became President.

"Billy and Ruth Graham have practiced the ministry of being friends with Presidents of both parties always completely private, always completely genuine." ~William J. Clinton

George W. Bush — In his 1999 campaign autobiography, "A Charge to Keep," George W. Bush said a turning point in his faith came during a private talk with Billy Graham along the coast of Maine in 1985. Graham's words planted the "mustard seed in my soul" that eventually led to a decision to "recommit my heart to Jesus Christ," he wrote.

Barack Obama — President Barack Obama visited Billy Graham at his Montreat, N.C. home at the end of his weekend mountain vacation in April 2010. He is the first sitting president to meet with Graham at his home, where the two of them had a private prayer time and some conversation. A White House spokesman said that the president was "extraordinarily gratified that he (Mr. Graham) took the time to meet with him." Mr. Graham said he was pleased to have had the president visit his home.

In conclusion, let me say this, that Billy will ever remain in the annals of Church pages and the American history as the most influential person who shaped the Church, his nation and the world at large. No one man had such a sustained stamina to remain revered in the hearts of millions across the nation and around the globe for such prolonged decades. Watching Billy from a close distance or from a far, one is forced to think, 'Does God have favourite kids?' That is what his life compels us to conclude, when the opposite is true. For to God none is a favourite, rather, all His children are His favourite.

Billy loved His God and lived for Him...and such a life should only call us for a deeper relationship and a closer walk with Billy's God. Everyone likes to be another Billy Graham. But the truth of the matter is that Billy Graham never dreamt his life to be what it turned out to be; but he learned to live like Jesus and he did to the best of his ability in spite of the falls and the falters. God does not want us to be another Billy Graham, rather He wants us to be ourselves and surrender completely to Him so He could make us a tool in His hands, a weapon against the enemy and a gift unto Himself. Billy was all these three and much more. May we too, be to God, who called us, the same way He called Rev. Dr. Billy Graham. Let us remind ourselves, God has no 'one kid' as His favourite. To Him, all of us are His favourite. What He did with one life so surrendered like Billy Graham, He could do the same and much more, provided we pay the price. Billy paid his.



Goals Setting for Children: How, When and Why?

A common question we face regularly is when a child should start setting goals. This question indicates a complete lack of understanding of what a goal actually is. Goal achieving is something that is, or should, be going on every hour of your life.

Here's a story that will help explain...

In the 1960s, Psychologist Walter Mischel and his staff wanted to know to what extent the ability to delay immediate gratification might influence later educational and life success. The study involved 400 four-year-olds. Each child was put in a room by themselves with a two-way mirror and filmed. On the table in the room was a marshmallow.

The researcher then told each child that, "I've got to leave for about 10 minutes. You can eat this marshmallow now if you want. Or if you wait till I get back, you can have two marshmallows when I get back."



Some of the kids were pretty determined to wait; one child actually licked the table all round the marshmallow but avoided the marshmallow itself. Some could wait a few minutes only. Others gobbled it down immediately. The researchers continued to track these 400 children throughout their school careers and into early adult life. The results were dramatic. "Those who had deferred eating the marshmallow for 15-20 minutes in order to get the bigger prize just a few minutes later were more socially competent, personally effective, self-assertive and better able to cope with the frustrations of life. They were less likely to go to pieces, freeze, regress under stress or become rattled and disorganized when pressured. They embraced challenges, and pursued them instead of giving up even in the face of difficulties; they were more self-reliant and confident, trustworthy and dependable; they took initiative

and plunged into projects; more than a decade later, they could still delay gratification in the pursuit of their goals." According

to their parents' evaluations, the children who had waited were academically superior, could better put their ideas into words, use and respond to reason, could concentrate better, make plans and follow through on them, were more eager to learn.

This simple little marshmallow test of the ability to delay gratification has shown to be a better predictor than IQ what future SAT scores will be. In fact, the kids who could wait just 15-20 minutes scored, on average, 210 points better on their SATs than the "instant gratification" group.

12-14 years LATER.

You see, discipline is not factual knowledge... it's who you are. You can't get discipline from a book. Most of those pre-schooners couldn't read a lick.

There is a Chinese proverb that says "If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow."

In The Road Less Traveled, M. Scott Peck writes, "Discipline is the basic set of tools we require to solve life's problems. Without discipline we can solve nothing. With only some discipline we can solve only some problems. With total discipline we can solve all problems."



Power to Stay ***Focused***

by Solomon S. Kumar

“If you go through a tough situation, it’s bound to happen. You will feel the pressure but at the end of the day, you want to do well for your country. In that scenario, nothing works for you but you have to remain focused and not let the extra negative thoughts to creep in.”

~MS Dhoni

A couple of years ago the very idea of an Indian cricketer rivaling Sachin Tendulkar in the popularity stakes bordered on the preposterous. It was considered an outlandish idea but the advent of Mahendra Singh Dhoni and his meteoric rise through the ranks did just that, with a new generation transfixed by a small-town boy whose personality and background couldn’t have been more different from that of a city-bred Tendulkar.

Few had heard of him as a 23-year-old when he savaged a Pakistan A side in Nairobi. There had been the odd excited whispers from those who watched his big-hitting exploits in Kolkata club cricket, but hardly anyone expected that he would be playing for India within months of that Kenyan safari. Though he got a duck in his debut ODI game against Bangladesh, Dhoni lashed a match winning 148 against Pakistan in his fifth ODI and later in the year, he clubbed 183 against Sri Lanka. Such was the impact of his stroke play that a far-from-polished wicket keeping technique was almost ignored as he was fast-tracked into the Test side.

Within two years of that, he was leading an inexperienced team to glory in the inaugural World Twenty20, and winning the last tri-series to be held in Australia. When Anil Kumble handed over the Test reins in 2008, he celebrated with a home victory against Australia. And in 2011 came the biggest triumph of all, the World Cup, on the back of an exceptional batting performance in the final and bold leadership throughout from Dhoni.

Apart from wins in world tournaments, his leadership also oversaw India's rise to the pinnacle of the Test ladder, and a massively successful three years for the Chennai Super Kings franchise that did well in each of the first three seasons of the IPL before winning the event in 2010, and going a step further to claim the Champions League in the same year. He led the Super Kings to back to back victory in the following year and made sure that they finished runners-up in the 2012 edition.

However, the fickle nature of fame and glory hit Dhoni hard later in 2011. India lost seven consecutive Tests overseas to England and Australia, bringing into sharp focus his performance as batsman and captain. It was a downhill ride for Captain Cool as Dhoni seemed to have lost his Midas touch.

Rumours began to make the round that there was dissent in the dressing room and that Dhoni was not getting along well with the other seniors. The retirement of Rahul Dravid was followed by the sudden and abrupt end of VVS Laxman's career. The Hyderabadi was said to be upset by lack of support from Dhoni and had called it quits. Through it all, Dhoni's stoic approach helped him weather the storm. As it is said, 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going.' Dhoni kept his head down and waited for the right moment to explode. It happened in the first Test against the Australians at Chennai recently where he hammered a superb 224 to set up India's win. With India winning the next Test in Hyderabad recently, Dhoni became the most successful Indian Test captain when he eclipsed Sourav Ganguly's record of 21 victories from 49 Tests. Things have suddenly taken a turn for the better as Dhoni's stock has shot up and the critics have been made to eat their words. "He has changed positively as a captain. Now, if a player is not attentive and not up to the mark, Dhoni is letting him know," India's legendary opening batsman Sunil Gavaskar told a television network. "He is not making too many gestures but he is making the player know that he is not happy."

Dhoni, who had not let success get to his head, made sure that he was not bogged down by failure too. His ability to shut out the negative and concentrate on what he was good at doing, has helped him to overcome the bad phase of his career. As a Christian we too will have several ups and downs in our life but it is important to remain focused on our goals and objectives in life. Developing immunity towards success as well as failure is possible only when we keep our eyes on Him, who has called us to be part of His Kingdom. Neither success nor failure matters but only faithfulness to our call.

As a Christian we too will have several ups and downs in our life but it is important to remain focused on our goals and objectives in life. Developing immunity towards success as well as failure is possible only when we keep our eyes on Him, who has called us to be part of His Kingdom. Neither success nor failure matters but only faithfulness to our call.



www.google.co.in/imgres

A Walk from the heart

By Elizabeth Daghfal



<http://proudofbeingstrange.deviantart.com>

You'd think it'd get easier." "She turned 16."

Two hooks. Reading those, you'd probably have an idea of where I'm going. Most likely, you'd be wrong.

The first was a caption from my web page, a cry from my heart, thinking of my mother who died eighteen years ago. An incredible woman, even in the midst of debilitating chemo, she regularly made dinner for someone else who was sick in the tiny slot of time when Mom didn't feel horrible herself. She wasn't perfect, but she seemed pretty close. Kind, patient, creative, smart.... Scientist, teacher, loving wife and mother, she raised four children, living an example of servant leadership and humility while pointing to God as her source of strength and love. College, my freshman year, she was diagnosed: Breast cancer. My senior year, Valentine's Day, her battle ended. I know without a doubt she's with Jesus, but I still miss her here. After eighteen years, you'd think it'd get easier.

It doesn't.

Now, mother of five myself, I wonder. Will they one day deal with this same pain? Which brings me to my second hook. Big changes for my oldest daughter. Driver's license. ACT. College tours. AP tests. College registration. Leaving home.

"Just yesterday," I held her for the first time, repeating over and over, "Hi, my precious." Just yesterday, I called my husband because "She flipped over!" Just yesterday, people stopped me in store aisles: "Hold on to every moment." "Years go so fast." "Don't blink...."

If you're a young parent, you've heard it, too. Older parent? You know the truth of it.

Because as hard and interminable as those early years can be—hundreds of diapers, long nights/early mornings, craving naps (for both you and your child),—one day you turn around, and your tiny pixie's not grabbing you around the calves. You're staring up at her. Handing her car keys, watching her drive off, praying she remembers the way, sees every car, every stop sign, that everyone sees her, and that the bad guys don't.

Everyone talks about the tumultuous teen years. We've had our share of instances. But no one mentions the mature moments—when you want to cry because you see your little girl all grown-up, kindhearted, making right choices, choosing the hard but admirable path.

Last March, was one of them. Her request: "Mom, let's do the 3-day / 60-mile breast cancer walk. In honor of your mom!"

She was confident we could raise the \$4600. \$2300 each. She created banners, flyers, labels, business cards...Called and visited local companies...Through her high school's



And I just wanted to call my mom.
As I've wanted to do for all the events,
big and small, of my children's lives.
Will I be there when they're
bringing up their little ones?
To share their joys and sorrows?
To remind them,
"Hold on to these moments.
They'll be gone in a flash."



National Honors Society and orchestra, we sold ice cream bars, baked cupcakes, held a "Go Pink" Concert, sold Mother's Day carnations, and sat at school all summer with a "Chips and Popsicles" Sale. Together, we wrote emails and letters and baked and sold over 90 gourmet mini-cheesecakes in white boxes with pink ribbons.

And we walked. From city to city. From state to state. And all over our city itself—on sidewalks, on shoulders, in ditches. Practicing, preparing, building callouses,...and then, the "real" 60 miles.

Through it all, we laughed. Argued. Cried. Sweated. We stayed up late, at times 'til yesterday met tomorrow. Sometimes I carried her. Sometimes she carried me.

But most of the time, I just stared at her in awe. Usually when she wasn't watching. Amazed at the years that have flown by. Amazed at the young woman she has become. And I just wanted to call my mom. As I've wanted to do for all the events—big and small—of my children's lives. Will I be there when they're bringing up their little ones? To share their joys and sorrows? To remind them, "Hold on to these moments. They'll be gone in a flash."

I have no idea. 1 in 8 women are diagnosed with breast cancer. 30 every 90 minutes. It's definitely not the only cancer. But as I wrote on that web page, we start somewhere.

No doubt: Children grow up too fast. Life ends too early. I'm blessed to have had this precious time with my daughter, building memories, and remembering a very special woman whose life touched so many.

Two hooks to begin? Two closures to end:

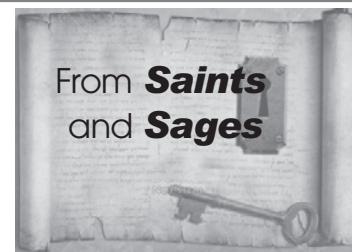
"Therefore, since we have so great a crowd of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1, ESV).

"He that begets a wise child shall have joy of [her]...and she that bore you shall rejoice" (Prov. 23:24-25).

"Mom, you are my inspiration" and "Lydia, I'm so proud of you!"



Elizabeth Daghfal
is a freelance writer and
columnist in
Kenosha, Wisconsin
where she lives with her
husband David and
five children.



"Behind me is infinite power,
before me is endless
possibility, around me is
boundless opportunity."

-Author Unknown

"Success is the ability to go
from one failure to another
with no loss of enthusiasm."

-Winston Churchill

"Write it on your heart that
every day is the
best day in the year."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Be more concerned with your
character than your reputation,
because your character is what
you really are, while your
reputation is merely what
others
think you are."

-John Wooden

"Don't let your victories go to
your head, or your failures
go to your heart."

-Author Unknown

True givers are regular but
unexpected people...mostly
invisible and not the rich in
town kind if people.

-Nny Zeffs



Tetelestia... It is finished

Christ from the Cross

by Sunny Joseph



The two most viewed works of art in the world today are the nativity scene [birth of Jesus] and the crucifixion [death of Jesus]. Why do these paintings still have such a lingering lasting influence on the mankind even though it has been 2000 years since these events? When we talk of these two pictures, it is obvious it is the person of Jesus that is central in these paintings. Why is the person Jesus such a mystery and why is He such an enigma?

Philosophy has two problems. While it answers many questions, it leaves unanswered the two most asked question the 'life' and 'death.' Philosophy has not explained death decently or answered meaningfully. What happened on the crucifixion day was exactly what philosophy had left unanswered, the meaning of death. In Jesus' death all questions defining death are answered.

In the Old Testament we see a tabernacle that God ordained the Israelites to set up as a temporary structure where He could meet with them. This later became the Temple in Jerusalem...a permanent construction. The integral part of the Temple was the veil that divided Holy of Holies and the Most Holy Place. Only the ordained anointed high priest met with God on an appointed time ones in a year on behalf of the people to atone for their sins beyond the veil. The veil symbolized separation of man from God because of his sin of man in the Garden of Eden.

On the day Jesus was crucified, the progression of events was leading up to a culmination of bringing down of the ancient divide between man and God, the removal of the thick veil. How it happened is the defining moment the heavens and the creation waited to see. It is dramatic, it is climactic; it was eventic. It was the one single event that divided history, time and our calendar too into two.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," He did not mean, 'Oh my, this is finally done!' No, it was

What happened on the crucifixion day was exactly what philosophy had left unanswered, the meaning of death. In Jesus' death all questions defining death are answered.



D.K. PREACHER'S KIDS



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BY DAVID AYERS



not a sigh of relief. The Greek verb translated as "It is finished" (*tetelestai*) means more than just this. It means 'it's done . . . complete,' 'What must be finished is finished.'

Tetelestai comes from the verb *teleo*, meaning 'to bring to an end, to complete, to accomplish.' It's a crucial word because it

signifies the successful end to a particular course of action. It means "I did exactly what I set out to do." *Tetelestai* is in the perfect tense in Greek. When Jesus cried out "It is finished," he meant 'it was finished in the past, it is still finished in the present and it will remain finished in the future.' The act for human redemption is finished... *Tetelestia*.

Death is every man's fear. Fear itself comes from the fear of dying. Man needed someone to go ahead of him to see and face death so he could pass death without fear. Jesus stepped into the need of man as a Mediator to bridge man back to God. And it was Jesus that paid the cost for human redemption. The long held fear and the mystery of death had come to an end. It is finished; *Tetelestia*.

Only Jesus stands qualified in the place as one who overcame death.
He is not God because He defied death. He is God and so He defied death.

Someone said that if a man is born like a man, grows like a man and dies like a man, he truly is human. But if a man is born like a man, grows like a man and dies like a man and rises from the grave to life like no other human, then He truly must be divine and must be GOD. Only Jesus stands qualified in the place as one who overcame death. He is not God because He defied death. He is God and so He defied death. Many men, god men have come and gone but it is the tomb of Jesus alone that lies open for the world to witness that He does not lie among the dead but lives today because He is God and He is above death.

[‘Tetelestia; It is Finished’ was part of a short sermon by Sunny Joseph for Good Friday & Easter Special to CBN India’s TV programme]

...if a man is born like a man, grows like a man and dies like a man, he truly is human. But if a man is born like a man, grows like a man and dies like a man and rises from the grave to life like no other human, then He truly must be divine and must be GOD.



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אָבִגְדַּה שְׂזָה תִּלְיָמָן Judaic Connection

...digging deep for Hebrew Roots

Lashon Ha-Ra



"Swords can only slice the body,
but words, slice both the soul and the spirit."

~Sunnito

Gossip is two people bonding together
at the expense of another.

~Brian Jay Stanley,

Lashon Ha-Ra or lashon hora in Hebrew is "evil tongue"
Lashon= tongue; Ha= the; ra =evil

Of the 43 sins enumerated in the *Al Cheit* [Lit. for sin] is a prayer of confession recited on *Yom Kippur*, the day of atonement] 11 are sins committed through speech. The *Talmud* tells that the tongue is an instrument so dangerous that it must be kept hidden from view, behind two protective walls [the mouth and teeth] to prevent its misuse.

There are two *mitzvot* [commandments] in the *Torah* that specifically address improper speech: Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale-bearer among thy people [Lev. 19:16], and ye shall not wrong one another [Lev. 25:17, which

It is said that the telling of gossip leads to bloodshed, which is why the next words in the *Torah* are "you shall not stand aside while your fellow's blood is shed." The story of Do'eig the Edomite [I Samuel 21-22] is often used to illustrate the harm that can be done by tale-bearing.

The person who listens to gossip is even worse than the person who tells it, because no harm could be done by gossip if no one listened to it. It has been said that lashon ha-ra [disparaging speech] kills three: the person who speaks it, the person who hears it, and the person about whom it is told. [*Talmud Arachin* 15b].

The gravest of these sins of tale-bearing is *lashon ha-ra* which involves discrediting a person or saying negative things about a person, even if those negative things are true. Indeed, true statements are even more damaging than false ones, because you can't defend yourself by disproving the negative statement if it's true!

One who tells disparaging things that are false, is referred as a *motzi sheim ra*, [lit. spreading a bad name] or sharing untruth about one person to another person. This is considered the lowest of the low.

Leviticus 25:17 says, "You shall not wrong one another." This has traditionally been interpreted as wronging a person with speech. It includes any statement that will embarrass, insult or deceives a person, or cause a person emotional pain or distress.


"...the tongue is an instrument
so dangerous that it must be
kept hidden from view, behind
two protective walls [the mouth
and teeth]
to prevent its misuse."
The *Talmud*



according to tradition refers to wronging a person with speech].

Tale-bearing is, essentially, any gossip. The Hebrew word for tale-bearer is "rakhil" [Reish-Kaf-Yod-Lamed], which is related to a word meaning trader or merchant. The idea is that a tale-bearer is like a merchant, but he deals in information instead of goods. In our modern "Information Age," the idea of information as a product has become clearer than ever before, yet it is present even here in the Torah.

It is forbidden by this *mitzvah* to call a person by a derogatory nickname, or by any other embarrassing name, even if he is used to it.

More reading: Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person. Col. 4:6 [NASB]
Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3 [NASB]

[Source: <http://www.jewfaq.org/speech.htm> - By Tracey R Rich]

Jesus Died in Gethsemane...

...the art of Dying

"When the will of man and the will of God encounter each other,
ONE will must die;
it is for us to decide whose **WILL** dies."

~Sunnito

Science has answered all of man's questions though, it has left two important questions unanswered; when does life occur and when does it end. I mean questions about life and death. While all are born to live, only one Man in history was born to die; Jesus. While death comes to everyone, it was only Jesus who went to death and knocked on its doors. In other words, He challenged death saying, "Keep me dead and down if you can." Unlike other graves, only the grave of Jesus is opened for the world to know that death could not hold Him down. Jesus' single death answers man's million questions on life and death.

The single most important event among the many other events leading up to Jesus' death, was 'set' in the garden of Gethsemane.

The primary purpose why Jesus came to earth was to die on the cross as a ransom. Every other purpose was subject to His death. However, when He was to face death, on the night before His death in Gethsemane, Jesus suggestively prayed if He could be spared from death. "Abba, Father...take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."

The garden at Gethsemane literally means "oil press." It was here Jesus prayed the prayer requesting the Father, if He could be spared from death. However, His prayer hinged on the words, "...nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt." To critically analyse the prayer, Jesus was simply suggesting that if given a chance [humanly speaking] He would have liked avoiding the death.

When death winks at man signaling, "come your time is over on the earth, "man ducks making every attempt to dodge the timing. Jesus before entering Gethsemane went with an attitude of ducking from death, however, when He came out of Gethsemane, He came out a dead Man. He died in Gethsemane. The secret was His prayer, "...nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt." When the will of man and the will of God clash on the same ground, one [will] must die; Jesus killed His will and let God's will win. Jesus and God knew that Jesus was as dead as a dead Man in the presence of God and for His cause when He came out of Gethsemane. Ones dead in Gethsemane, it was all settled, and His death at Golgotha was only an accomplishment of what He achieved in prayer in the Garden.

The call of a Christian is the call to death. He is dead in his closet before God even before he faces the world daily. It is only an open display of an internal battle won. If the Master had trod the track of death in the Garden before His death on the Cross, are we his servants greater than our Master that we do not die in our closets of prayer yet, walk boldly into the battle ground to win?

Jesus taught us the art of dying. While death is a curse and an end of everything, to a Christian it is a blessing and a beginning of many new things. After Jesus death, death became more beautiful and attractive. Apostle Paul calls it, "gain." For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.[Philippians 1:21] The Greek word for 'gain' is '*ker dos*' meaning lucre and attraction. Unlike people who duck when death winks, Christians can simile back when death winks.

Readings by the Lamp Side



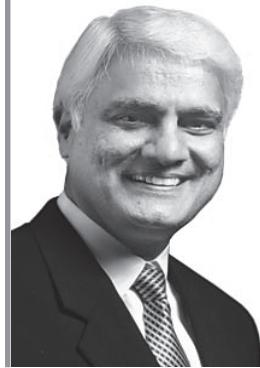
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A Slice of Infinity

Dr. Ravi Zacharias



On Being Human



With the arrival of cloning, the Human Genome Project, and advances in artificial intelligence, the nature of what it means to be a person becomes increasingly urgent. All bio-ethical questions ultimately require a concept of human essence as their point of reference.

Consider the Internet egg auction in which one could place a bid on the chromosomes of eight female models. The website promoter described the spectacle as "Darwin's natural selection at its very best." Now many of us might react with visceral repulsion, but nonetheless the site generated hundreds of thousands of hits within the first few days of the action.(1)

Wrote commentator Brent Waters:

"Although the auction was greeted generally with disgust, it is interesting to note the most prominent objection raised against it was that it was tantamount to consumer fraud. Successful bidders might not obtain the attractive children they were imagining. As various commentators explained, even if these eggs were joined with the 'best' ... there was no guarantee of a 'perfect' baby. All sorts of things could go wrong, resulting in a very disappointing child, because each roll of the genetic dice cannot be predicted in advance."(2)

Astounding! The decision to have a child is reduced to the economic return on a bid and whether or not the child would

be sufficiently attractive so as not to be a disappointment. Is there not more to being human?

Think of it in this way. If a computer could be programmed so thoroughly with the strategies involved in chess that it could defeat our brightest champion, would we then say that this computer is more human than the world's greatest chess player? Not likely, for to do so would reduce intelligence to computational efficiency, memory, and physical components.

In contrast, personhood, according to the Christian understanding, cannot be reduced to form or function. Indeed, our identity is sacred by definition, for we have been created by God to bear God's image. We have been endowed with a moral nature, with the capacity to give love and to understand goodness. A child, then, does not find her worth in physical beauty or mental prowess, but in reflecting the beauty of her creator. There is a transcendent value to being human, rooted in the very being of God.

As we wade our way through the morass of bio-ethics, we must not look at the face and IQ of a human, but instead, to the face and mind of God. Only then can we truly understand what it means to be human.

(1) "Designer Destiny: Parenthood at the Genetic Crossroads," Science & Spirit, (Jan/Feb 2000) by Brent Water, 12.

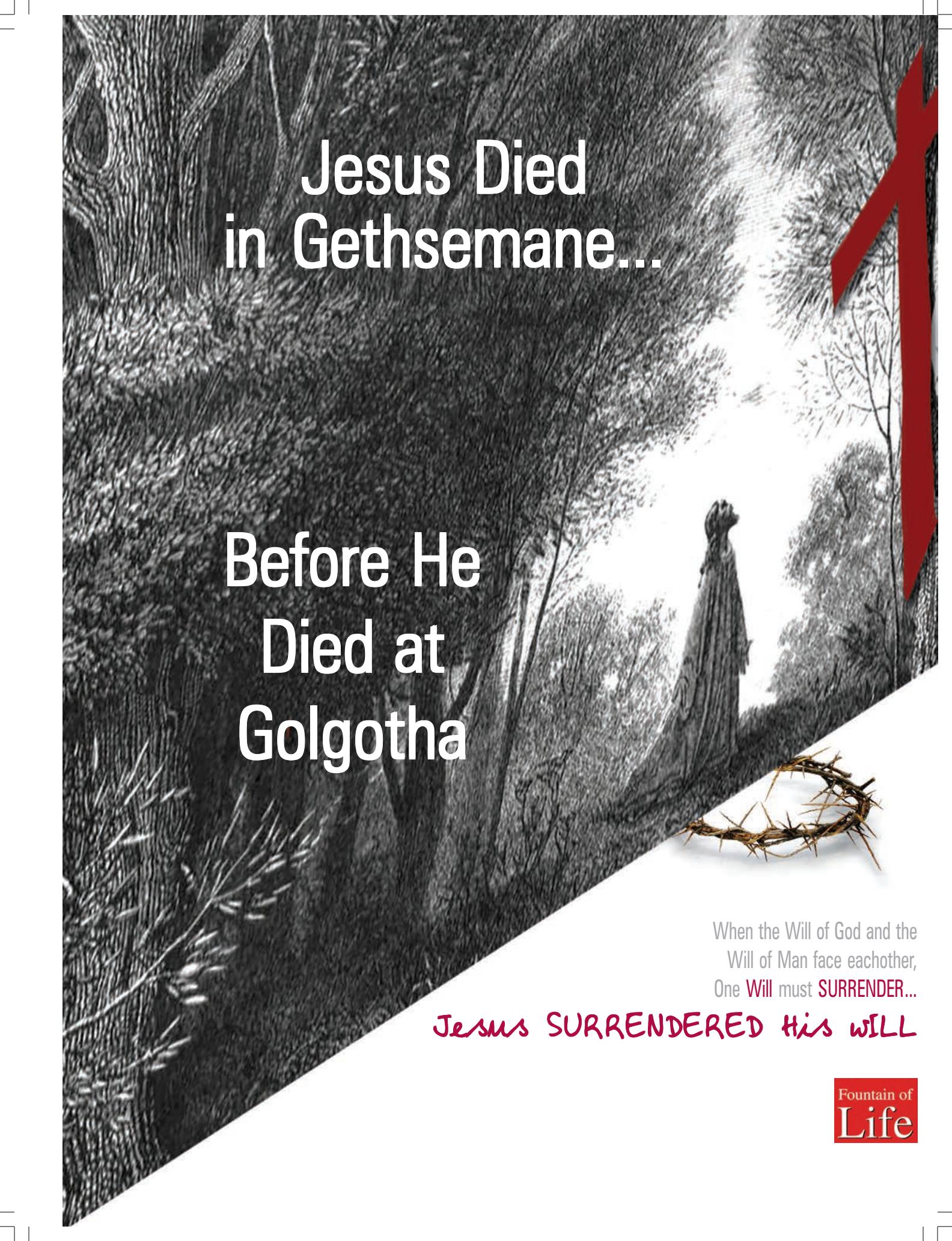
(2) Ibid.

D.K. PREACHER'S KIDS



BY DAVID AYERS





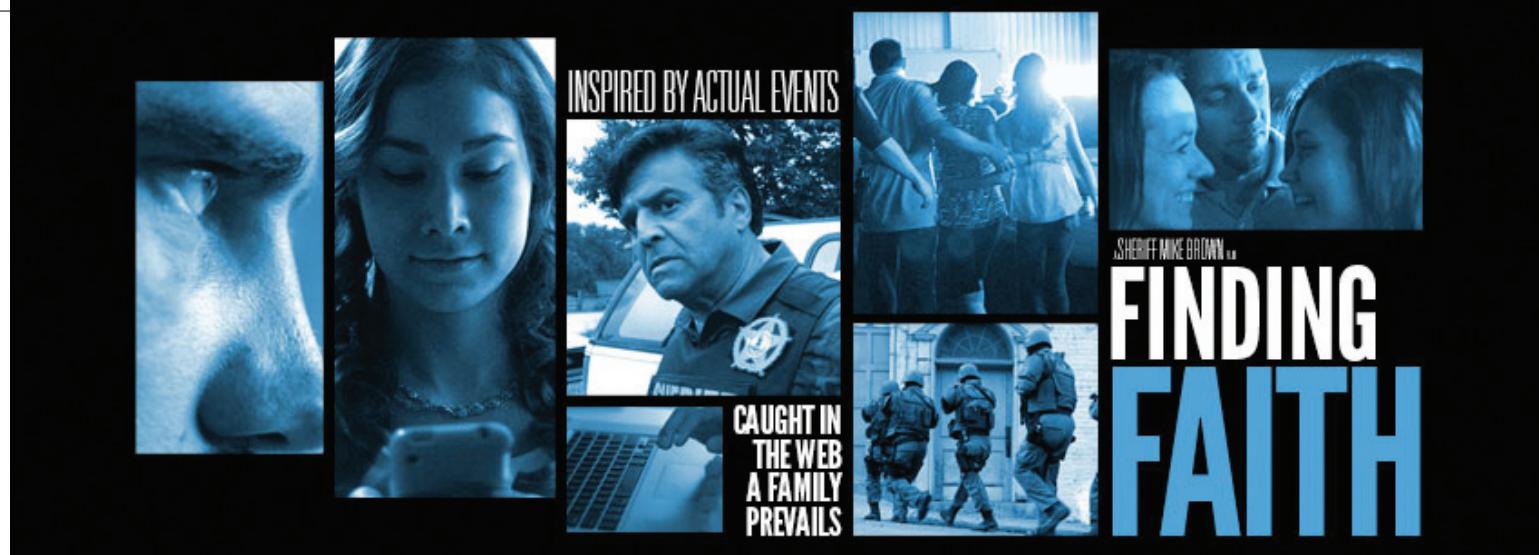
Jesus Died in Gethsemane...

Before He Died at Golgotha

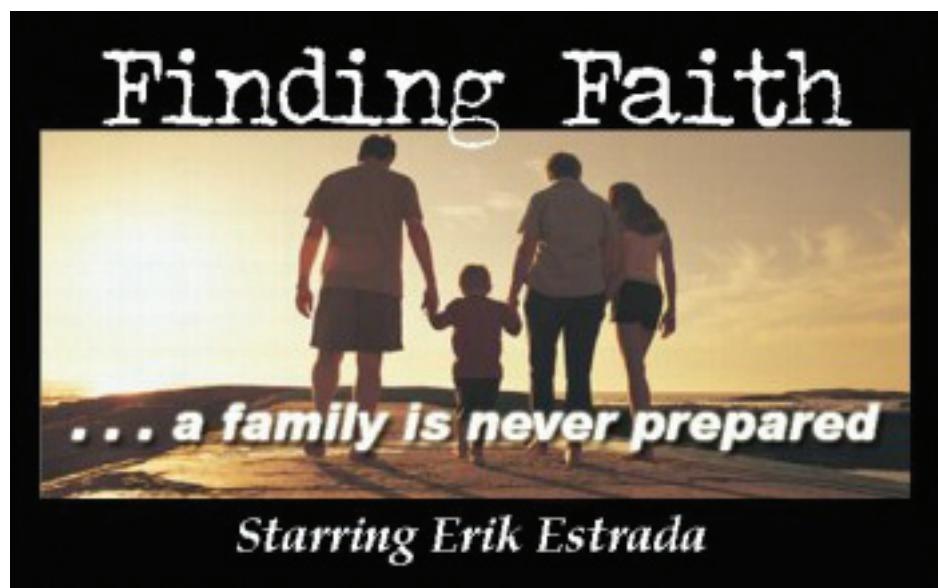


When the Will of God and the
Will of Man face each other,
One Will must SURRENDER...

Jesus SURRENDERED his WILL



Finding Faith is based on a compilation of actual events that Sheriff Mike Brown has investigated through his Internet Crimes Against Children task force. In a recent Safe Surfin' Foundation Public Service Announcement, one such victim courageously told the story of how she was abducted by a child predator and how she remained captive for three days before being rescued by the police.



Another MUST SEE film!
Get this movie and show it in your church, your schools,
this topic is CRUCIAL!



Erik Estrada signing an FoL copy