

The Tidings

Antioch Baptist Church

Serving God and our Community since 1776

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A Living Example

Billy Graham died today. I hesitate to say that because he is more alive than he has ever been in heaven with Jesus. Was Billy Graham perfect? No, no man except Christ was perfect and He was also God. What are some things we might learn from Billy Graham's faith and indeed his life? I am sure this is not an exhaustive list, it will give each of us the opportunity to reflect and consider the impact of the Gospel in the heart of one who has given their lives to it.

Billy came to saving faith in Jesus Christ at the age of sixteen. A few years later when he was about nineteen. He preached his first sermon. God used Evangelist Mordecai Ham to in a series of revival meetings to bring Billy and others to faith in Jesus. As Billy grew in his faith he too began to share his faith with others. He would later go on to speak to people in 185 different countries and territories sharing the gospel with millions of people over 80 years.

He met with and advised every President going back to Harry S. Truman except for our current President (because of his health). His name has been one that has been an example of living rightly and keeping his name out of controversy. What can we learn from a man who has been a testimony to our Lord Jesus Christ?

My first question was, "was Billy Graham perfect?" No, he was not a perfect example, but as Mike Breen points out we are "living examples." I believe Billy was a living example. He would often deflect any glory to point people to the glory of God in Christ Jesus. Keeping our focus on Christ and giving Christ the glory. I remember seeing an interview with Woody Allen years ago and he was telling him about sin and salvation. Woody begins to respond with the question, "so you're telling me that I am a sinner..." Billy quickly, and gently corrects "No I am not telling you that, God is through God's Word, the Bible." We won't be a perfect example either, but we can be living examples to those around us and point them to God's Son, God's Word, and God's Glory.

He met with people of all levels of society, including Presidents and world leaders. He didn't make a distinction about whether to meet with them based on their political affiliation or station in life. There are many today, that vilify the political party they do not feel represents them or their beliefs. God places people in our path to share His message it may not always be the people that we would chose. Will we be faithful to have gentle and honest discussions with others no matter their political persuasion, differing views, or station in life?

Be who you are in Christ and be faithful to what He called you to whether little or much. Billy was a gifted man, but God used Billy's faithfulness to magnify those gifts. His strength of character allowed people to trust him and that allowed him to have a greater impact. You or I may not have the same gifts as Billy Graham, but our faithfulness to Christ, our willingness to be a living example, and to love people where they are and not where we hope they will be can help us to have an impact for the Kingdom of God in the world today.

Will you tell others about the amazing grace that saved your life? Will you live for him and not for yourself? The Apostle Paul at one point says, "follow me *as* I follow Christ." Don't follow anyone who is not following Christ. There may never be another Billy Graham, but God has His faithful of today, and you are one. God bless you my friends, as you seek to be living examples of Christ just like Billy.

God Bless, Greg

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Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating in the month of MARCH: Kimberly Adkins(1), Cindy (V) Falls(2), Milton Bullard(7), Deborah Martin(7), Eddie Burnette(8), Carroll Allen(9), Olive Wyman(9) Teresa Bailey(9), Deanna B. Cosner(10), Owen Jordan(10), Donna Lowry(10), Victor Jordan(10), Chris Moretz(11), Thomas Casey Jr.(13), Stacey Smith(13), Jeff Adams(16), Charlie Vaught(16), Claudia Boggs(19), Lindsey Snoddy(21), Susan E. Kelley(24), Sandra Vaughan(24), Chandler Vaught(24), Chad McKinney(28), James McDonald(29), Vada Roberts(29), Arthur Dean(31)

(If your birthday has been inadvertently left off the birthday list or entered incorrectly, please contact the Church Office.)

WMU – WOMEN’S MISSIONARY UNION

OUR MISSION: ... TO INFORM AND INSPIRE Christians to influence their world for Christ.

**WATCHWORD: “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings”.
(1 Cor. 9:22b-23 NIV)**

Have you ever taken an expected journey? One young, woman travels from Africa to Acteens and back again. Abuk spends busy days as a journeyman with the IMB in East Africa. Her ministry to university students includes discipleship groups and Bible studies as well as fun times of baking and watching movies with the young women. She states “It is the coolest thing to see the representatives from all around the world and to hear how God was using them to reach people we didn’t even know existed.” I believe you will find her story inspiring and I encourage you to read about Abuk.

On February 11, there were 80 ladies that attended the WMU “TEA”. They heard Lynn Litchfield with GraceInside Prison Ministry tell of her experience working with the women prisoners inside our prison.

March 4-11, will be our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions Week of Prayer. The theme will be “On Mission Here and Now”. Our monetary goal is \$1300.00.

We invite you to come and join in with one of our mission groups. You will be glad.

Joyce Adams, Reporting for WMU

SENIOR’S MEETING

The seniors will meet on Monday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. Jenny Nelson, retired Henrico County Librarian, will portray the inspirational testimony of Fanny Crosby, who penned over 10,000 hymns in her lifetime including some of our favorites like “Blessed Assurance” and “To God Be the Glory.” Tune up your voices for a sing-a-long! A covered dish luncheon follows the meeting. Hope to see you there!

