

## WILLIAM FRANKLIN (BILLY) GRAHAM

In the tradition of Jonathan Edwards, the eighteenth-century American revivalist, Billy Graham's long career as a Christian evangelist has created a no less influential great awakening. His message -- written, published, preached, and broadcast -- has been personally delivered in every major city in the United States and in every continent of the world. He recently preached by satellite to eight million people, and TIME magazine last year estimated that his television and videotape messages have been carried to one billion people, nearly a fifth of the world's population. His spiritual guidance has been sought by world leaders, including American presidents from Harry Truman to Bill Clinton.

From his earliest years as a preacher, he insisted upon ending racially segregated seating at his revivals, and he has always designated funds for social welfare causes. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has maintained a consistently rigorous integrity of financial accounting.

The son of a dairy farmer, he was born and grew up in a rural area near Charlotte, North Carolina. For almost fifty years, Montreat, North Carolina, has been his home. In the tradition of Paul the Apostle, who navigated the Mediterranean world twenty centuries ago preaching, this modern-day apostle has spoken no less forcefully and no less tirelessly -- and he has traveled far more extensively. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill proudly honors this native son and powerful voice of modern religious evangelism, Billy Graham, with this Doctor of Divinity degree.