



1949 Los Angeles Crusade

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of Billy Graham's 1949 evangelistic campaign in Los Angeles, the Billy Graham Center Archives at Wheaton College has launched a new online exhibit. Titled, "Into the Big Tent: Billy Graham and the 1949 Christ for Greater Los Angeles Campaign".

Please visit www.billygraham.org and look for "Into the Big Tent"

The exhibit showcases more than 100 items related to the groundbreaking campaign, including posters, photos, plan-

A Timely Word from John Calvin on the Occasion of his 500th Birthday

It is the common habit of mankind that the more closely men are bound together by the ties of kinship, of acquaintanceship, or of neighborhood, the more responsibilities for one another they share. This does not offend God; for his providence, as it were, leads us to it. But I say: we ought to embrace the whole human race without exception in a single feeling of love; here there is no distinction between barbarian and Greek, worthy and unworthy, friend and enemy, since all should be contemplated in God, not in themselves. When we turn aside from such contemplation, it is no wonder we become entangled in many errors. Therefore, if we rightly direct our love, we must first turn our eyes not to man, the sight of whom would more often engender hate than love, but to God, who bids us extend to all men the love we bear to him, that this may be an unchanging principle: Whatever the character of the man, we must yet love him because we love God. — *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 2, Chapter 8

ning documents, and a film. It includes 55 audio files of Graham's 1949 sermons, which were originally captured on wire recordings and have been digitized for the exhibit.

Almost every day between September 25 and November 20, the Archives staff will upload the sermon Graham preached that same day in 1949.

The groundbreaking campaign, which was sponsored by the Christ for Greater Los Angeles Committee, was originally scheduled to last three weeks, but was extended to eight weeks due to overwhelming interest.

Read excerpts of the chapter called "Watershed" from Billy Graham's autobiography, *Just As I Am*, describing the turning point in his ministry.

As November began with a further extension of the Campaign, headlines as far away as Indiana screamed, "old-time religion sweeps Los Angeles." Reporters

Honorary and Memorial Fund

Sister Ethel Kish had encouraged us during the 2009 Convention to establish an "Honorary and Memorial Fund" for the purpose of supporting the missionary initiatives of our young people. Donations from this fund will be allocated by the Missionary and Benevolence Board at its mid-year meetings. The written applications addressed to the MBB should state the goals and the duration of the mission trip, and should include a letter of support from the pastor of the applicant.

The initial deposit is the money donated in memory of Ernest J. Kish.

We request donations to the Fund mailed to the Treasurer.

were comparing me with Billy Sunday; church leaders were quoted as saying that the Campaign was "the greatest religious revival in the history of Southern California."

The Final Night

On Sunday afternoon, November 20, two hours before the start of the final meeting, 11,000 people packed the tent to standing room only. Thousands milled about in the streets, unable to get in. Hundreds left because they couldn't hear. On the platform with me were 450 fellow ministers, to whom now fell the awesome challenge of shepherding those who had come forward through the weeks.

For that time, the statistics were overwhelming. In eight weeks, hundreds of thousands had heard, and thousands had responded to accept Christ as Savior; 82 percent of them had never been church members. Thousands more, already Christians, had come forward to register various fresh commitments to the Lord.

Someone calculated that we had held seventy-two meetings. I had preached sixty-five full sermons and given hundreds of evangelistic talks to small groups, in addition to talks on the radio.

It Was God's Doing... God had answered prayer.



An open Bible, part of the podium from which Graham preached. The Bible verses are Romans 12:1,2.

Some statistics:

* The campaign lasted from September 25 through November 20, 1949. Seventy-two services were held in the tent.

* An estimated 350,000 people attended at least one of the services. 3,000 inquirers made decisions to accept Jesus Christ for the first time, while 3,000 more made other decisions, such as recommitting their lives. 1,600 children made decisions at children meetings (it is unclear whether these were in addition to the 3,000 inquirers.)

* The largest crowd was 15,000 on November 7th.

* The tent originally had seating for 6,000 to 6,500 people. This was later expanded to 9,000.

www.billygraham.org