

Church, have you thought about what you want your legacy to be?

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Leadership  Network *Advance*



Billy Graham the Innovator

By Dave Travis

Billy Graham is now safe in the arms of Jesus. We praise God for his inspiration to all the evangelists and pastors who will continue his legacy of preaching the gospel faithfully, being a model of integrity and an innovator.

Innovation is a key word at Leadership Network. We believe innovation in ministry helps shape the gospel to be more effective in this context and generation.

A few notes to remember his legacy:

- He was not a pastor long, but **fulfilled his calling as an evangelist**. This was not just through his noted crusades, but in other contexts – speeches, travels, meetings with leaders. In our Leadership Network circles, often the largest of the larger churches are driven by those called to be evangelists but fulfill their calling in their local congregations. If that is your calling, be who you are. Be the evangelist God calls you to and let others fulfill their calling around you.
- He always **grounded himself in scripture**. “The Bible says....” – I wonder how many times he said that? The scriptures are the solid ground on which all flourishing ministries are built. Let us follow his example.
- Graham was **a kingdom thinker**, not tied to his own historical denominational traditions. He connected to many Christian traditions, evangelical, mainline, even Catholic and Orthodox. He believed the Gospel should be preached to all and includes all.
- He believed in sharing the gospel in **many creative ways**. While crusades were well established as a method, he layered it with film, television, radio, magazines, newspaper columns that used simple language and answered relevant questions. He used evangelism schools, conferences for evangelists and other meetings where the organization he founded raised most of the donor money to fund it all.
- Not mass evangelism, but **personal evangelism on a mass scale**. Through extensive prayer, preparation and training, thousands were equipped to share Christ with friends and then bring them to the focal event - the crusade - to hear the

gospel clearly and simply and then ask for a commitment. May we see more of that in our churches.

- It is well known that the organization he started was very **transparent with its finances**. I wish more followed his example. He was paid well but not to excess. He was never accused of impropriety personally either, nor were almost all his colleagues that were in ministry with him.

A few personal words. When the Graham organization was in planning meetings for the 1994 Atlanta crusade, one of the leading pastors of the city told me the story of when Graham had come twenty years earlier. This pastor had been selected to take Graham to lunch and to play golf to refresh him at the midpoint of the meetings.

“I had made a reservation at one of the finest restaurants in Atlanta and, thanks to one of my deacons, had made arrangements to play at one of our finest private golf clubs. When I went to pick him up that day, he came out wearing an old windbreaker, English cap pulled down over his then longish hair, and sunglasses. I barely recognized him.”

“After proudly informing him of my plans, said Billy,”: “Thank you so much for doing all that, but would you mind terribly if we went to a local cafeteria and play at a public course? You see I can be more anonymous at a cafeteria and at a public course I am less inclined to be swarmed with people. And some private courses don’t welcome all people and I don’t want to be accused with promoting that behavior. Golf, like the gospel, is for everyone!”

Then the pastor described the day. Going to the local cafeteria where no one recognized him except the waitress at the very end of the meal who was bussing a table nearby and recognized his voice. When they played at one of the city courses, no one picked him out except the cart tender at the very end, who thanked him for his ministry.

“And that my friend was a lesson to me” said the pastor. “He could have had the world at his feet, but chose another path.”

Leadership Network has a loose tie to Graham. It is well known that Graham helped launch Christianity Today magazine to be a communication to pastors about evangelical thought. He was the founding chairman.

Decades later the founders of Leadership Network worked with the leaders of Christianity Today to assemble the first group of pastors for our first forum of larger church pastors. We have always felt a kinship with Christianity Today folks because of this.

Finally, a personal word. It was during that 1994 Atlanta crusade that my neighbor, who is still my neighbor today, made a personal commitment to follow Jesus.

I am eternally grateful for the work of the team that week in bringing him to this commitment.

Many of you will have personal stories of how Graham’s ministry has impacted your own work. I would love to hear them. Would you share them with me?

Just hit me up at dave.travis@leadnet.org.



Are You Paying Your Staff Enough? (Or Too Much)?

By Warren Bird, Director of Research

If you participate in our upcoming survey, you'll get some great guidelines in how to answer that question for a church your size. In March we'll launch our "Large Church Salary and Economic Outlook Survey," offering a bunch of unique perks to those who participate. To receive an invitation – or to name someone at your church who should receive it – simply go to leadnet.org/salary and input that person's email using the link at the top of the page.

Our survey, overseen by our research director Dr. Warren Bird, will explore everything from specific roles (example: what factors most influence a campus pastor's pay?) to select benefits (example: what's the typical church contribution toward staff and pastors' retirement?) to various trends (example: what was the typical pay raise, if any, from 2017 to 2018?). **Our survey is typically the US and Canada's biggest national-scale study of these large-church issues**...and those who participate get more feedback and faster feedback than anyone else.

We've done large-church compensation, benefits and staffing surveys since 1991, always protecting the participating church's privacy, anonymity and confidentiality. To see free executive summaries from previous salary-related surveys, or to register to receive an invitation to participate in the upcoming survey, click or tap on the button below.

Learn More



Things You Want to Know About

Opportunities for you and your team

Implementation LAB Session with Dave Ferguson - March 6

How do you effectively reach your city or town for Jesus? Dave Ferguson will be joining us for the March 6th LAB session to share how you can dream big and yet start small. Dave will be sharing steps you can take immediately to start reaching your city. And you'll come away from this LAB session with your own 30-day 'getting started' plan to help you move the needle in your outreach efforts.

**Reach Your City: How to Dream Big and Start Small
With Dave Ferguson
Tuesday, March 6, 1 PM Central**

[Register Now](#)

Latest Multisite Trends Report Online Briefing - March 8

Hosted by Dr. Warren Bird and Jeff Beachum

Leadership Network recently released our latest multisite research report titled: "Latest Multisite Trends: How a New Generation of Pastors Is Shifting to Strategies that Reproduce and Multiply." If you haven't yet, you can download the free illustrated report at leadnet.org/portable.

In order to give additional background for the report, as well as answer questions about the findings, Dr. Warren Bird, Research Director of Leadership Network, will conduct a 45-minute online briefing covering the new report release. Dr. Bird will be joined by Jeff Beachum, Church Multiplication Specialist for Portable Church, the sponsor for this report.

To register for the online briefing, click or tap on the button below.

**Latest Multisite Trends Online Briefing
Thursday, March 8, 2 PM Eastern**

Register Now

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Leadership Network
12700 Park Central Dr
Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75251

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