



billy graham center centerline

Fall 2007

News from the **Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College**, Wheaton, Ill.

International Scholars from the Global South Study at Wheaton College

T *Laurie Fortunak*

his year's crop of Billy Graham Center scholars represent the fullness of God's heart for the nations—evangelism, training, church planting, holistic missions. Each year, international, furloughing, urban and pre-field missionaries are selected from around the world to attend the Wheaton College Graduate School on scholarship. Since the BGC Scholarship Program began in 1975, over eight hundred students have received advanced degree training in areas such as: evangelism, intercultural studies (missions), biblical and theological studies, clinical psychology, Christian formation and ministry, counseling ministries and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

The eight new international and international furloughing students represent where God is mightily at work: particularly in the global South, including Asia and Africa. This year's scholars include: Ling (Linda) Cheng, Taiwan; Nicholas Kalyebara, Uganda; Enoch Oluoch Okode, Kenya; Christian Senyoni, Rwanda; and Xiaou, New Zealand. International furloughing students include: Prasanna Cheleru of India, Misook Kim of Korea and Jeremy Sieberhagen of the Republic of South Africa.

Space does not permit us to detail each student's journey to Wheaton College and the Billy Graham Center. However, below you will read three of their stories. Each unique. Each important. Each representing one component of the workings of the Body of Christ.

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Transforming Communities in Uganda

To a people used to hearing a prosperity gospel which promises "all will be well if you turn to Jesus Christ," Nicholas Kalyebara is giving his all to teach a counter message: following Christ means serving others and using your gifts to transform your community. "Although God is moving mightily in Uganda and there is a lot of evangelism, the Christianity often includes a high level of corruption and a focus on materialism and prosperity," explains Kalyebara, training secretary for the Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS Uganda), an interdenominational organization committed to evangelizing and discipling students and graduates from universities and colleges in Uganda.

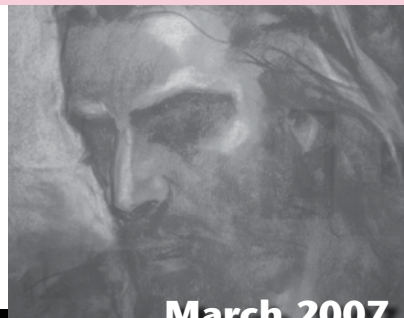
Kalyebara is in Wheaton's intercultural studies program with hopes the training he receives will help him to see "God's point of view in training and community development." Before coming to Wheaton, Kalyebara helped train student leaders

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Face to Face: Warner Sallman's Images of Christ

Since the *Face to Face: Warner Sallman's Images of Christ* exhibit opened last spring, over twenty thousand visitors have come through the Billy Graham Center Museum. Of those, nearly three hundred people have made spiritual decisions. Hundreds of people have written comments in the Museum visitor book regarding Sallman's exhibit. Don, from Illinois, wrote, "Outstanding exhibit! I have seen many of Sallman's paintings separately, but the collection—all in one place—gives an even greater impact." Rev. Sam, from India, wrote, "This is a feast fit for the eyes and a powerful impact on our hearts to see these pictures."

This is the first time several of Sallman's works have been on display and the first time all the works have been shown collectively in a public exhibit.



**March 2007
to January 2008**

Credit: Courtesy of Marion Sallman, widow of Sallman's son Richard

at the museum...

Museum Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. • Sunday, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

For more information, call the Museum at 630.752.5909

www.billygrahamcenter.org/museum



director's devotional

Lon Allison

"Farewell, Grand Man of God"

This is a time of honoring and remembering many great saints who are departing the earthly realm. In June, Ruth Bell Graham died. The Reverends Jerry Falwell and D. James Kennedy have also passed. These are only a few. Indeed, the Christian community is feeling the loss of these great men and women who have gone

to be with the Lord. At the Billy Graham Center (BGC) and Wheaton College, we just received news that our greatest leader (in my opinion) has departed as well. Dr. James (Jim) Kraakevik was a grand man of God.

He served as director of the BGC from 1984 to 1996. I first "met" Jim through his articles in *CenterLine*. When Jim took the helm of the BGC, he wrote, "Our cause is world evangelization; our task, to equip Christian leaders; our banner, the Lordship of Christ; our method, to be servants to his servants." I didn't meet Jim face to face until I arrived in late 1998. Although he had officially retired, he was still working at the cause and task, holding strong to the banner and modeling the method. By that time, he had moved from the director's office on the fourth floor of the BGC into a small, stuffy, no-windowed office in the Library of Evangelism and Missions. There, he kept working, encouraging and praying. In 2006, he returned to Nigeria, where he, his wife and their five boys had served in the 1960s and 1970s. His goal was to help launch a Christian Liberal Arts College—a "Wheaton in Nigeria" was how

he phrased it. What a grand man of God.

Jim's kingdom service was profound and wide in effect. He was an atmospheric physicist by training and degree—the kind of scientist who flew through thunderstorms to measure electrical properties. He worked for the US Naval Research Division. He was professor of physics at Wheaton and led the science division for a time. During his missionary service in Africa, he evangelized, taught and led much of SIM's (Serving In Mission) work.

When Jim came to the BGC, he started new programs, initiated collaborative ventures with other agencies and brought in top-level, godly leadership to assist those already on board. By the time Jim retired in 1996, more than 500,000 people had visited the BGC Museum. The BGC Library and Archives had served tens of thousands of patrons and scholars. Nearly twelve thousand people had made faith decisions through the telephone ministries, and over thirty-six thousand Christian leaders had attended the 165 sponsored conferences and consultations.

My fondest memory of Jim, however, occurred three years ago. He would often

join a few praying saints and BGC staff for the Wednesday noon BGC prayer meeting. Sometimes he would lead; always he would intercede. On this particular day, he could see my glassed over eyes and hear my stress-filled prayers. When the meeting was over, he sat next to me, put his hand on my shoulder, listened and prayed. That's the Jim I most remember, always encouraging, always serving.

I recently said goodbye to Jim. We held hands and talked of heavenly hopes. I gave him these words spoken by Paul and lived well in Dr. James Kraakevik: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:6-7).

Indeed.

Opportunity to Serve:

The Billy Graham Center is looking for people who believe in our mission and would assist director Lon Allison and his assistant to cultivate relationships and encourage financial giving from new and existing donors. These are volunteer positions with expenses provided. The position would be about four days per month and may include travel. If you are prayerfully interested, please contact Linda Kacena at 630.752.5918 or at: Linda.S.Kacena@wheaton.edu.

In Memoriam: Ruth Bell Graham (June 10, 1920 - June 14, 2007)



Credit: BGEA

Ruth Bell Graham, beloved wife of evangelist Billy Graham and mother of five children, went to be with the Lord June 14, 2007. Born to medical missionary parents in Qingjiang, Kiangsu, China, Ruth developed an early love for the

Lord and a desire to be a missionary in Tibet. However, while attending Wheaton College, she met Billy (a.k.a. "Preacher"), who immediately fell in love with her. After much prayer, she heard God calling her to give up her dream of missionary work

in Tibet and to instead serve alongside Billy in his call to evangelism. While Billy traveled the world to preach the gospel, Ruth stayed home to raise the children. During this time, she not only became an avid reader and competent scholar, she also ministered to many individuals near their home in Montreat, North Carolina. Daughter Anne Graham Lotz said this of her mother in a 2002 interview: "At her deepest core is the desire for individuals to know Christ in a personal and intimate way. My father preaches sermons to the masses, reaching thousands; my mother talks to individuals, loving them one by one." By the end of her life, Ruth had authored or co-authored fourteen books and countless poems and reflections.

The Internet Evangelism Coalition

As you read this article, countless individuals around the world are learning about Jesus Christ for the first time. They are not reading about him through traditional print material such as books or newsletters. They are reading about him online—on home computers, in Internet cafes, in university settings, on laptops while traveling, on their cell phones. Some people, desiring only to surf the Internet for games or news, accidentally stumbled upon an evangelistic website and now find themselves captivated by the message of the gospel. Others, in an effort to hide their deliberate attempt to learn about the Jesus of the Christian faith, anxiously glance around for fear that someone who despises Christians will get a glimpse of the word “Jesus,” “Christ” or “gospel.” Still others, new to the Christian faith, find themselves bombarded by loved ones with questions regarding their new passion: Who is Jesus? Why should I care? What do you mean by “born again?”

History of Internet Evangelism Coalition

With individuals such as these in mind, the Internet Evangelism Coalition (IEC) was created in 1997 out of a meeting called by the Billy Graham Center (BGC) that brought together nearly one hundred people from churches, denominations and ministries who were interested in or already doing Internet evangelism. Under the leadership of Dr. Sterling Huston, the newly developed IEC asked the BGC to set up and manage the office. Two years later, the IEC held its first international conference to focus on networking, equipping and mobilizing those involved in sharing the gospel message online.

Today, the IEC acts as a service association for individuals, organizations and churches who have (1) a passion for winning people to Christ and (2) a desire to use the Internet to do this. “The purpose



The IEC is a service association for individuals, churches and denominations desiring to share their Christian faith online.

of the IEC is to put people with these two desires in touch with each other,” says Naomi Frizzell, IEC communications director. “Technological advances are happening at a rapid pace. The IEC is a place where leaders with similar passions can learn from each other and be encouraged that they’re not the only ones using the Internet to share Christ online.”

In addition to annual conferences and meetings, the IEC has: (1) developed a website (www.webevangelism.com) which serves as a hub of information and connections for Internet evangelism worldwide and (2) developed websites to assist those involved in Internet evangelism. These include:

- Now Try God (www.nowtrygod.com), a seeker-sensitive evangelistic website;
- Evangelism Toolbox (www.evangelism.com), a comprehensive listing of evangelism tools and resources; and
- Online Training for Online Evangelists (<http://bgc.gospelcom.net/iec/otoe/index.php>), a resource to help people share their faith effectively online.

Future of Internet Evangelism Coalition

In the past, the IEC has emphasized membership by individuals, denominations, churches and ministries; however, this focus is being redefined. “We’re transitioning our member structure,” Frizzell explains. “It’s our desire to especially serve churches, denominations and min-

istries.” However, Frizzell encourages individuals with a passion for evangelism and the Internet to stay in touch with what IEC is doing and to encourage their church or denomination to become an IEC member. The IEC offers a free monthly e-newsletter to anyone interested in Internet Evangelism (subscribe online at www.webevangelism.com). She also encourages people to learn more about Internet Evangelism Day, a day held each spring in which churches can equip and educate their members concerning sharing Christ online—how to do it, where to do it, cautions, etc. The day is designed to help churches evaluate the use of their own websites for evangelism. Resources such as PowerPoint presentations, video clips, drama scripts and handouts are downloadable from www.InternetEvangelismDay.com.

While many of the websites developed by IEC members are in English, Frizzell says the number of evangelistic websites focused on non-English speakers is growing. She adds that the IEC has developed a relationship with the Global Use of Internet and Digital Evangelism (GUIDE) Network (previously called the International Internet Evangelism Network) to support and network both English and non-English evangelistic websites.

The goal of the IEC is to encourage the use of technology to reach the entire world with the gospel of Christ. As Christianity shifts to the global South (Asia, Africa and Latin America), so too does the need arise to support non-Western, non-English websites designed to bring the good news to a world in darkness. Frizzell explains, “It’s our desire that the gospel of Christ be proclaimed through every available means because ‘if our gospel be hid, it is hid to those that are lost’ [2 Cor. 4:3].”

The Internal BGC @ Work allows readers to “step inside the Center” and read about the exciting things God is doing. Each issue will focus on one of our eleven departments.

continued from page 1

who would go on short-term mission trips in evangelism and discipleship. He also worked with FOCUS' "Missions Beyond" program, in which college students go out for one to two weeks doing evangelism and social ministry in local villages in Uganda. Upon graduation, Kalyebara hopes to more effectively help students use their professional training (medical, law, education, etc.) to better their communities.

"I want to help the Ugandan people use their professions to transform their communities," he says. "I want to teach the students to broaden their understanding of missions. Being in missions means using what God has given you to change lives around you."

Ministering to Students in New Zealand

Xiaoou was born in China and was taught in an educational system which taught if you believed in God, you were weak. From an early age, she spent hours seeking to find the purpose of life. After delving into Buddhism and other religions, she "stumbled" upon Christianity while at university. Her English teacher, an American missionary, shared the person of Jesus with her. "He gave me an interlineal New Testament, with English and Chinese," Xiaoou recalls. "I read it and thought, 'This is so different than what I was taught!' Jesus represented the love I thought life was about. We are to be honest, to love each other. The teaching of Jesus echoed in my heart."

Xiaoou was soon baptized. Shortly after, however, she came into great emotional and spiritual conflict. After years of disappointment in people and situations—and a growing frustration in the "material" desires of the Chinese culture—Xiaoou decided to end her life. "In China, you are taught that you are born and then you die and then there is nothing," she explains. "Well, I was a Christian and I knew that there was heaven after death, so I figured, why should I have to go through all of this suffering if I can just go to heaven now?" Three failed suicide attempts and only a few months later, God spoke clearly to Xiaoou on returning to him and praying for three things: forgiveness, help and a sense of his continual presence. God an-

swered and six years later Xiaoou moved to New Zealand to attend Bible school.

Today, Xiaoou works in an international student ministry organization where she ministers to Chinese students in the New Zealand college setting. "More and more, the students are pointing fellow students to Christ," she says. "I am increasingly in a mentoring role. While at Wheaton [in the Christian and Ministry Formation program], I want to learn how to more effectively disciple and train these students as they take on leadership positions."

Integrating Disciplines in Taiwan

Theology and psychology. Rarely does one hear those two words in tandem. However, for Ling Cheng, a New Testament seminary professor in Taiwan, these two ideas must go hand-in-hand to develop mature and fully-functioning Christians. Cheng is taking time off from her teaching to earn her masters degree in psychology. "There is a missing part in the theological education system in Taiwan," she states. "There is an emphasis on the knowledge of God, but this does not necessarily lead to a better relationship with God. We have head knowledge, but it doesn't translate to how we see ourselves or others. And then, when people around us are having serious issues, we are not able to help them deal with those in a healthy way."

Cheng grew up under the influence of a strong Christian mother. She came to Christ at an early age, praying, "No matter what price I must pay, please give me the opportunity to teach and learn your Word, God." Her passionate love for scripture has continued to grow. She has earned degrees in New Testament, exegetical theology and biblical literature. It is in teaching students where she most sees the need for psychology—an understanding of oneself and others. "Many of these students in seminary are going to become pastors," she explains. "They are going to have people in their churches who need help and they need to know how to help them. We are still in the beginning stages of learning how to train students to do this better, but it is necessary to having healthy Bible teachers."

Endnote: 1 Last name withheld for security reasons.

JUST RELEASED!

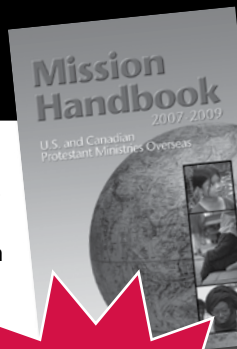
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The Billy Graham Center stimulates global evangelism, partnering with Christian leaders to develop strategies and skills for communicating the gospel. The Center serves the church in evangelism and missions through leadership training, research, networking and strategic planning.

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