

# Billy Graham center at wheaton college

# FALL 2001

# CENTER LINE



At the  
Billy Graham Museum  
February–May 2002

### ***“The Artist and the Bible: 20th Century Works on Paper”***

is an exhibition of fifty-five works that cover biblical narrative and scriptural symbols, ideas and influences from the collection of Edward and Diane Knippers. This thirty-year-old work-in-progress, comprised by artists ranging from George Rouault to Sadao Watanabe, provides a survey of artistic styles and approaches to the Bible’s richness and truth.

Museum Hours  
Monday - Saturday, 9:30 - 5:30  
Sundays, 1:00 - 5:00

For more information, call the Museum at 630.752.5909

## Listening to God *Together*

### Mission Leaders Discover New Pathways for Global Ministry

John Siewert

**T**he largest missions conference of its kind in North America in some forty years convened on September 20-23 near Orlando, Florida. Nearly 700 mission leaders, mostly from North America, participated in Godsmission.comUNITY. The vision of the conference coordinating council was 1) to provide a gathering place permeated by refreshing worship and prayer in plenary sessions, 2) to conduct a variety of general and special interest forums conducive to listening to God in community, and 3) to discover together new pathways for collaborative global ministry.

What better time for mission leaders to worship, pray and plan together than after a week that will most likely be remembered for generations as a “before and after dividing line” in history.

J. Paul Landrey, International Director, Trainers of Pastors International Coalition and former missionary to Brazil, emphasized the scope of the conference. “What can be said about this amazing gathering of mission leaders, this side of Sept. 11? We have never gathered in such depth and breadth. The planners of Godsmission.comUNITY are to be commended for taking the risk. Thank you,



Lon Allison, director of the Billy Graham Center, served as host of Godsmission.comUNITY

conference planners, for drawing the ‘circle’ of participation wide and creating a ‘safe place’ where we could get to know each other.”

Several years of planning were invested in this conference which, as it turned out, followed a most significant week for the United States and many other countries. The previous week had seen the tragic events of September 11. The conference leadership had faced the decision of possible cancellation since air travel in the United States was still mostly at a standstill four days before the scheduled opening of the sessions. However, the decision to move ahead proved timely. What better time for mission leaders to worship, pray and plan together than after a week that will most likely be remembered for generations as a “before and after dividing line” in history.

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## Director's Perspective

LON ALLISON

### "This is what we do"

"Lon, this is what we do," my friend said. Those words were couched in a conversation with a leader who serves with a funding foundation. The context was my uneasiness bringing up the issue of financial support for the Billy Graham Center. I didn't want to infringe on our friendship whatsoever. I value him far beyond the "bucks." But he quickly set me straight—"Lon, this is what we do."

"Giving is what we all do," isn't it? I still remember the retreat I attended as a young believer (college age). The issue was stewardship, a term I didn't understand. I had little trouble getting my arms around the notions of giving my time and talents to God. I was glad to do so. But the treasure (\$) thing floored me! The leader asked us to return a full 10 percent of our income to God on a regular basis. Impossible. At that time in my life, such generosity computed to at least 50 dollars a month. How would I eat or put fuel in my TR-6 if I gave away that much? Yet, the leader emphasized giving as another form of love response to Christ. I bit the bullet. That was 1976 or 1977. Today, "giving is what we do" in the Allison family. Marie and I are passing the practice on to our children. My hunch is that most readers of the BGC *CenterLine* are 10 percenters and more. You are Kingdom investors already.

That's why I write on this subject. I am prayerfully asking you to consider the work of the Graham Center in your tithe investments. Of course giving to your local church comes first. But after that, in your more "diversified tithe portfolio," we ask for your prayerful consideration. You need to know I'm asking every employee and board member of the Graham Center to do the same. Following my article, we've included some potential ways to support our work whether that be through long-term estate planning or monthly/yearly gifts. We've begun a new initiative called the "BGC Colleagues." Participants pledge at least \$1200 year or \$100 per month. Of course, any gift from \$10 or more a month is a great help. Our need this fiscal year is to raise an additional \$210,000, which is roughly 7 percent of our yearly budget. Thankfully the gracious commitment and belief of Wheaton College and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association fund the majority of this year's need. But from now on, each year, we'll need an

additional 7-10 percent to meet our obligations and fund our growth.

I've thought long and hard about this article. Asking for funding from committed donors is a new direction for this ministry. Are we worthy of your support? Yes. Marie and I are the first to enter the "BGC Colleague Program." Why? Because the Graham Center's vision captures our commitment to global evangelism. Since its inception, this place has held a unique place in the world of evangelism/missions. Here, we marry scholarship and practice in remarkable ways. Whether it be through the resources of the vast Library, Archives and Museum or through consultations and conferences on critical Kingdom issues, we believe in "thinking the Mission of the Church." But, most importantly, we promote thinking that won't sit still. We "train evangelism leaders" and "transmit the gospel" directly through preaching, the arts and the telephone ministry center. We were a partner in seeing over 20,000 decisions for Christ last year. Yes, this place and this vision warrants investment. I have no doubt. In fact, now that I've entered my fourth year of leadership I am more convinced of the Kingdom value that is here. God willing, I'd like to stay around for another 20 years. Spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and raising up the next generations of evangelism/missions leaders is not only enough to keep me busy, it keeps me passionate!

Will you prayerfully consider helping us? See the box below for a way to begin. Thank you for your faithfulness to the mission God has given you. Pray we will stay "on mission" at the Center.

### You Can Invest TODAY in the Ministry of the Billy Graham Center

The Billy Graham Center gratefully accepts gifts of cash, marketable securities, and real estate.

Please make your checks payable to The Billy Graham Center and send it to: Billy Graham Center, 501 College Ave. Wheaton, IL 60187

All gifts to BGC are tax-deductible, but your gift must be completed on or before December 31, 2001 in order to qualify for a 2001 tax deduction.

For more information, please call (630) 752-5918 or toll free (800) 525-9906

*Your Gift in Support of the Billy Graham Center Will Bear Much Fruit—Fruit That Will Last*

The Billy Graham Center, 501 College Ave. Wheaton, IL 60187

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Attendance that was compromised by participants who had to cancel was bolstered by new registrations.

Those who traveled by air to the conference encountered a new era of security procedures in the United States. At the meeting site, conference planners quickly took prudent steps to provide a physical security presence never before seen in a large gathering of missions leaders in the US. Security factors, however, mostly faded into the background when the music worship team, organized by Byron Spradlin of Artists in Christian Testimony, called the participants together for worship, prayer and praise.

In special times set aside, a sizeable number of the sixteen sponsoring associations and networks had a board session or other annual type of meeting at the same site. Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment (ACMC), the Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies (EFMA) and the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association (IFMA) were the three largest associations meeting together in conjunction with the conference.

One of the desired outcomes of the planning committee was to have participants “hear teaching and receive direction from leaders outside of the North American missions community.” This goal was met in general sessions by Tom Houston and Patrick MacDonald of Europe, Peter Chao of Asia, Michael Cassidy of Africa and Valdir Steuernagel of Latin America. Landa Cope of Youth With A Mission led the general Bible study times.

Norm Allison, Director of Toccoa Falls College School of World Missions and former missionary to Jordan, stressed the wealth of information presented. “I was informed by every session and blessed by the music and fellowship. In reflecting on where we have been and where we need to head, the ‘Biblical Reflections’ of Landa Cope were very special. I have a lot to assimilate.”

Another desired outcome celebrated all that God is doing in the diverse associations and ministries represented. Besides those already mentioned, other associations actively participating were the Alliance for Missions Advancement, Antioch Network, North American

Council for South Asian Christians, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Association of Evangelical Relief and Development Organizations, Billy Graham Center of Wheaton College, Coalition of Supporting Indigenous Ministries, World Evangelical Fellowship, Evangelical Missiological Society, INTENT, Willow Creek Association and International Christian Technologists Association.

Each day small-group Bible studies and extended prayer times focused on the Lord’s Prayer. The subjects of the twenty breakout forums centered around specific challenges faced by mission workers, such as “Planning for the Future within a Context of AIDS” presented by IFMA and World Relief. The Evangelical Missiological Society presented a series of three forums on the general theme “Lessons in Mission from the Twentieth Century.” All sessions included times for questions and discussion at the end or in interactive participation during the forum.

Participants indicated the conference sessions became fruitful times for fellowship and networking. Stan Slade, Mission Explosion Team Leader of American Baptist International Ministries and former missionary to El Salvador, summed up his response: “For me Godsmission.commUNITY was uplifting worship, challenging messages, encouraging fellowship and valuable networking with other servants of the Reign of God—all bathed in prayer.”

The conference’s coordinating council made up of the sixteen Godsmission.commUNITY sponsoring associations produced a September 11 statement after general discussion. This response was presented to the Godsmission.commUNITY participants in the final general session (see box below).

For more detail concerning the conference, see the Website <[www.godsmission.com](http://www.godsmission.com)>.

## Sept. 11 A Prayerful Response

Under the auspices of Godsmission.commUNITY, American and Canadian leaders from 17 networks, representing over 350 international mission agencies, denominations and local churches met in Florida from September 20-23, 2001 for the largest gathering of its kind on this continent in over 40 years. The following expresses the joint concern of the organizing committee.

- We mourn the tragic loss of life and suffering caused by the unprecedented evil attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. People of all ages and numerous nationalities became victims. Horrific tragedy has always been elsewhere but on this date it came home to North America.

- We acknowledge that

through this tragedy, North American Christians in some measure can empathize with the pain and loss of fellow citizens of the world, who have long suffered from dehumanizing violence.

- We call upon all our constituents in North America and our 40,000 international workers, more than ever, to pray with humility and diligence for a godly response, while actively demonstrating and proclaiming God’s love and forgiveness for all people everywhere.

- We recognize that God has given the message of lasting peace and hope to offer this hurting world. Through Jesus Christ, we can be forgiven and forgive one another. This message is needed as never before.



## Rekindling a Contagious Fire

Lauren Brown and Nancy Grisham

**R**ecently I was at a lake house in Wisconsin grilling some steaks on a charcoal grill. After repeatedly trying to get the layer of coals to ignite, in frustration, I read the directions. I had missed a key step—bringing all the coals together first. When they are white hot, they can then be spread out evenly for constant heat.

That's what the Billy Graham Advanced School of Evangelism is all about: bringing pastors together, encouraging them to become white hot in reaching lost people, helping them develop evangelism tools and plans, and then spreading them across the nation to work in

week was both encouraging and challenging, as the churches understood their need for power, passion and process in becoming evangelistically effective churches.

Nearly 160 church leaders representing 51 churches attended the conference with the purpose of taking their church

Each church leadership team was paired with an evangelism coach who will be working with them throughout the coming year to raise the evangelism temperature in their churches. As Dr. Lon Allison, director of the Billy Graham Center, noted, "This is not a one-week conference. It is a 52-week conference."



Workshop members learn to develop evangelism plans.



Nancy Grisham welcomes participants to the Advanced School of Evangelism.

their local churches. 2 Timothy 1:6 says, "...fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you..."

Participants in the Advanced School of Evangelism not only walked away with a renewed passion for God and for lost people but also with a detailed Evangelism Plan in which action steps were mapped out and written down. They used the sessions at the Billy Graham Center in Wheaton, IL, in June to form decisions shaped specifically for the future of evangelism in each local church. The

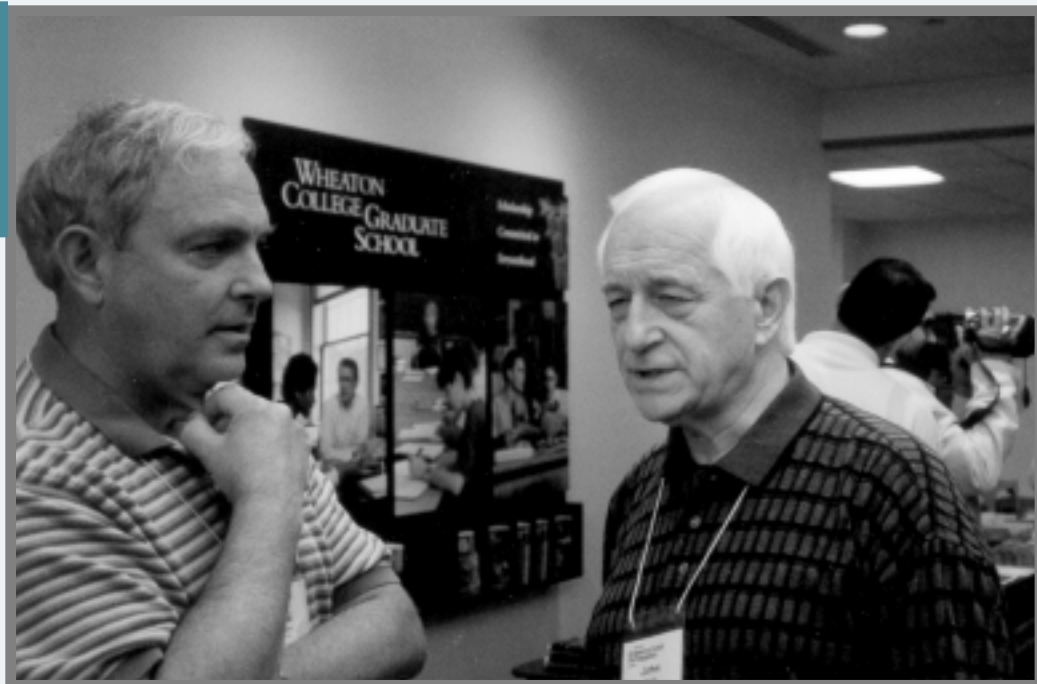
to a higher level of evangelism. In keynote sessions, speakers from the front lines of evangelism, such as Mark Mittelberg, Rickey Bolden, Lon Allison, Lee Strobel, and John Corts, addressed the challenges of reaching lost people for Christ. The School was a partnership between the Billy Graham Center in Wheaton, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Minneapolis and the Willow Creek Association.

Participants left knowing how to raise the evangelism temperature in their churches, increase the value of evangelism in their own lives and the lives of others, equip their members to share Christ with people they know, create a diverse and effective evangelism team, and design and implement high-impact outreach ministries and events.

A special "Church Team Time" provided each of the church leaders with the opportunity and help they needed to design a specific evangelism plan relevant to the needs of their particular local community.

The conference was built around a six-stage evangelism plan based on Mark Mittelberg's book, *Building a Contagious Church* (Zondervan Publishing House, 2000). These six stages of a contagious change process include:

- Stage One—Owning and Modeling Evangelistic Values
- Stage Two—Instilling Evangelistic Values in the People around Us
- Stage Three—Empowering an Evangelistic Point Person
- Stage Four—Liberating and Equipping Every Believer
- Stage Five—Developing a Diversified Evangelism Team



David Olmsted, Director of ISE and John Corts of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association visit between sessions.

• Stage Six—Innovating High-Impact Outreach Ministries and Events

Each one of the six stages was elaborated on by one of the keynote speakers.

Dr. Lon Allison kicked off the conference with a dynamic message about “The Greatest Vision on Earth.” A message on “The Power of God in Evangelism,” given by Dr. Lyle W. Dorsett, was appropriately interwoven between the six-stage messages. On the last day, Alan Nelson gave practical information on how churches overcome challenges as they change. The final message of the conference, given by John Corts, spoke to the participants on a personal level by reminding them of God’s love for them.

Although the conference was built around the six-stage evangelism plan, the leadership of the conference kept the main theme of the conference centered on Jesus. Only when Jesus is lifted up, will He draw men and women to Himself. Worship leader Stephanie Seefeldt (who also leads worship with the Anne Graham Lotz “Just Give Me Jesus” conferences) continually brought the focus back to Jesus.

Attendees commented on the networking and dynamics of evangelism provided. One participant wrote, “Awesome, invaluable. Interaction with the other 150-plus participants enhanced the conference. Staff and speakers were interactive, cooperative, sincere and so very Christ-like.” Yet another commented,

“The most valuable and helpful training I’ve had—an answer to prayer. A formula for success in ministry.”

Recent feedback from coaches shows that the fire kindled at the conference has proven to be contagious:

**Pastors/Leaders:** One leader led a dozen men to the Lord. A pastor states he is finally going to start preaching the gospel every week. Another pastor has decided that he has a lay leader who preaches better than him and has relinquished the seeker services to him. One pastor in Africa has gone outside his church to schedule meetings with other pastors to share the vision with them. One pastoral staff is going through Mark Mittelburg’s book, *How to Become a Contagious Church*, together.

**Churches:** Two churches have begun evangelism prayer lists. They shared the vision with their boards, incorpo-

rated praying for the lost and have actively made time to be with the lost. Five congregations have hired an evangelism point person and one has hired an evangelism intern. Four churches are trying to model and lead evangelism values from the pulpit with a sermon series. Four groups have started teaching the *How to Become a Contagious Christian* course. One of these four churches has also begun Alpha courses. Two of the above churches are requiring all leaders and new members to go through the evangelism training. One group is beginning to establish Frontline teams. Three churches had representatives at the Willow Creek Evangelism conference in September. Another congregation is beginning outreaches to its neighborhoods, and yet another has shifted the Wednesday night study to outreach.

**Coaches:** One of the coaches has taken the vision back to his own church where they are having a preliminary Frontline meeting and two *Becoming Contagious Christian* classes for the fall. Another coach is planning to take the model and Mark’s material to 8 large churches in New England.

Psalms 104:4 (NIV) reads, “He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.” The inspiration at the conference and the fruit growing now is a result of God at work through his people. Messengers and servants are simply vessels that God in his grace and mercy chooses to work through to accomplish his purposes. The messengers at the conference and the leadership coaches have allowed the Lord to make them winds to fan the flames of fire in his servants for his glory. ■



# Proclaiming Christ Publicly

David W. Olmsted  
 Associate Director, *Billy Graham Center*  
*Institute of Strategic Evangelism*

**R**ecent prayer-movement initiatives have resulted in many Christians strategically placed around the nation to pray earnestly for the lost in their neighborhoods. One such initiative is the Mission America Coalition's Lighthouse Movement, which has established nearly one million neighborhood lighthouses to lift up prayers for neighbors who need to know Jesus Christ. Other initiatives include the National Pastors Prayer Network, Every Home for Christ, Concert of Prayers International and many others. A concurrent, logical complement to this effort of "prayer, care and share" with neighbors is a network of evangelists who publicly proclaim the Gospel. The Proclamation Evangelism Network (PEN) is a collaborative effort committed to that purpose.

PEN is a network of evangelistic ministries committed to doing nothing apart that they can do better together. Each of the principal partner ministries has an effective program of evangelism methodologies at work as they labor to accomplish Matthew 28:19 directives. However, when surveying the daunting task of reaching every man, woman and child in North America with the Gospel, each partner realizes that, without coordinating efforts with other ministries to maximize efficiency, such a task is not possible.

As a result, in October 2000 at St. Louis, PEN adopted vision, mission and goals that detail the need to co-labor as evangelists. The PEN vision is "to proclaim Christ publicly." Public proclamation is a necessary component of any effective strategy in a community desiring to reach lost people. PEN's mission is to strategically collaborate as evangelistic ministries with the local church to publicly proclaim the Gospel to ev-

ery community in the nation by 2015.

One initiative in the challenge to develop preaching evangelists is the PEN-sponsored E-School. Next Generation Alliance, a ministry of Luis Palau Evangelistic Association focused upon mentoring, training and resourcing younger evangelists, currently conducts an annual conference to train their affiliated evangelists. Impact World

## Pursuit of PEN's mission will occur on four levels:

1. To enhance cooperation among participating evangelists as they collectively seek to discover God's strategy for this current generation
2. To promote each other and encourage biblical unity among participants
3. To discover, develop and deploy preaching evangelists and ministry coordinators
4. To seek effective ways to interact with and encourage the local church in the process of discipleship

Tours, a division of Youth With a Mission, conducts similar training events for their missionaries. The Billy Graham Center initiated the North American Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in 1994 and most recently, Amsterdam 2000, for the purpose of training evangelists as well. As PEN formulates the program for its first E-school, it will draw upon the experiences and curricula of all these programs, as well as proposed content for a training school for Southern Baptist Conference evangelists.

The first cooperative E-School will take place at The Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove outside Asheville, North Carolina, May 6-9, 2002. Workshops and general sessions will be developed along four tracks, or concentrations. One area of concentration will focus on the Message and Method for evangelistic preaching. A second area will address Management

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## Key Books on Evangelism and Missions

**Beginning Well: Christian Conversion & Authentic Transformation.** Gordon T. Smith. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

**Born to Preach: Essays in Honor of the Ministry of Henry and Ella Mitchell.** Samuel K. Roberts, Ed. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2000.

**Can We Pray for Revival?** Brian H. Edwards. Auburn, MA: Evangelical Press, 2001.

**EMinistry: Connecting with the Net Generation.** Andrew Careaga. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2001.

**Evangelism outside the Box: New Ways to Help People Experience the Good News.** Rick Richardson. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

**Living Water for Thirsty Souls: Unleashing the Power of Exegetical Preaching.** Marvin A. McMickle. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2001.

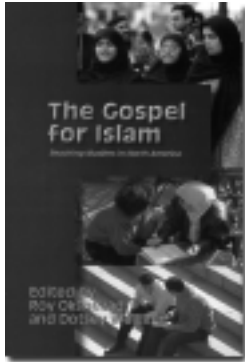
**Operation World: When We Pray God Works.** Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk, Eds. Waynesboro, GA: Gabriel Resources, 2001.

**Speaking of Sin: The Lost Language of Salvation.** Barbara Brown Taylor. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 2000.

**Whatever Happened to the Gospel of Grace? Rediscovering the Doctrines That Shook the World.** James Montgomery Boice. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001.

### NEW from EMIS

publishing division  
of the Billy Graham  
Center



**\$14.95**

The Gospel for Islam: Reaching Muslims in North America  
Roy Oksnevad and Dotsey Welliver, editors  
In 1999, a conference brought together Christian workers who minister among the Muslim population in North America. In this volume, you'll find the valuable insights and share experiences from these leaders, missionaries and other individuals. Topics include:

- the current state of Islam in America
- Muslim background believers
- presenting the gospel to Muslims
- the call to the church in North America

*"In light of the new world order, no resource is of more importance than this one."*—Lon Allison, Director, Billy Graham Center



**\$14.95**

Families on the Move: Growing Up Overseas and Loving It!  
Marion Knell  
More and more families are raising their children abroad. These "Third-Culture Kids" grow up with divided loyalties: an allegiance to their parents' culture, but with friends and outlook far closer to the host culture. *Families on the Move* will help you and your kids prepare and adjust to the overseas living experience. Chapters include: Preparing to Go, Educational Options, Living in a Non-Western Culture and Re-entry.

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**Proclaiming Christ Publicly**  
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issues for an evangelistic organization. Another will be devoted to enhancing Spiritual Maturity in the evangelist. The fourth area will present suggestions and techniques for Marketing the evangelist's organization to the community and the local church.

During October's annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, the PEN leadership presented a strategy proposal to achieve the mission of reaching every community in the nation. For their own purposes, PEN defines a community as "a local area of commerce with a population of 50,000 or less, which can also include specific demographics such as Native American Reservations, prisons, schools and campuses." Using that definition, the nation has more than 10,050 such communities that need

to be reached. The strategy will challenge evangelists to see how they might contribute to the plan with their independent campaigns and also in conjunction with some of the larger ministries.

Anyone interested in PEN or finding out more about the E-School can contact the Institute of Strategic Evangelism, 501 East College Avenue, Wheaton, IL, 60187, telephone (630) 752-5904, or at <[www.billygrahamcenter.org/ise](http://www.billygrahamcenter.org/ise)>. Additionally, PEN has a periodic newsletter distributed by e-mail that highlights recent proclamation event successes. ■

**Day by day**  
 the Lord Added...

**Decisions for Christ**  
 April - September 2001

Summer Preaching Events—Lon Allison	325
Operation Starting Line	5,064
Telephone Ministry	227
Museum	167
	5,783



**CenterLine**

*The Billy Graham Center  
 Stimulating Global Evangelism*

Fall 2001 • Vol. 24, No. 3

The Billy Graham Center, a division of Wheaton College, is dedicated to the advancement of world evangelization and works with Christian leaders from around the world to develop strategies and skills for communicating the gospel. With its unique resources and programs, the Center serves the church in evangelism and missions through leadership training, research, networking, and strategic planning.

CenterLine is issued three times a year. Subscription is free. Your donation of \$15 will help cover the cost of producing CenterLine. Send change of address to Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL 60187-5593.

- LONNIE J. ALLISON ■ Director of the Billy Graham Center
- KENNETH D. GILL ■ Associate Director
- DOTSEY WELLIVER ■ Editor
- ELLEN RISING MORRIS ■ Designer



Wheaton College

PHONE: (630) 752-5157  
 E-MAIL: [BGCADM@wheaton.edu](mailto:BGCADM@wheaton.edu)  
 WEB: [www.billygrahamcenter.org](http://www.billygrahamcenter.org)

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