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BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE REPORT

(SEE PAGE 1)



THE MIRACLE OF TORONTO'S CRUSADE



(The following article is a composite picture of the Billy Graham Crusade in Toronto, during September 18 to October 16, 1955. It is drawn by faculty and students, all of whom shared in the greatest spiritual awakening that ever came to the City of Toronto.

Words fail to give the impression and impact of these four wonderful weeks. But the record is written in heaven, and some day when the books are opened, the tale will be fully told.

For now, these few expressions of those who served as Advisers, Counsellors, Choir, Usher and Committee Members, must suffice. But the College has felt the pulse of new life in the City. Perhaps the outstanding fact is that a class for new converts, held every Tuesday evening, has drawn nearly 200 men and women to study

the steps of development for the Christian under the title: "Things That Accompany Salvation." (Hebrews 6:7).

We anticipate a flood of new life into the School in the days to come, and trust that you, our readers, prayer helpers and supporters, will continue to strengthen our hands. We only want to be found worthy of Him, and be a handmaid for the churches, in training these who have committed their lives to Christ.

Read then, and rejoice beyond the telling, at what God hath wrought.

Ed.)

A BUSINESS man went in to the furniture department of a large Toronto firm. While talking to the manager, he said:

"You should send all your salesmen to hear Billy Graham."

"Why?" asked the other.

"One of my own salesmen who was so inefficient and unreliable went to hear him. The next day he came to my office and handed me a roll of bills, which he said he had taken over the past months. If this salvation business works like that," he went on, "I'm going to hear Billy Graham myself!"

"Going to hear Billy Graham!" this was the month-long topic of conversation in Toronto; and "going to hear Billy Graham" for 8,120 men, women and children, meant accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour; having hearts and lives changed; having homes transformed; making wrongs right; and lighting fires of revival in churches and communities that still burn brightly and warmly.

But "going to hear Billy Graham" was not the correct summation of what was happening "Going to hear the voice of God"; "going to hear the message of the Bible"; "going to the Cross of Christ, where sin has been dealt with"; might more aptly depict what was taking place.

What was the secret of this spiritual awakening that came to Toronto? Definitely not a man; but God using a man.

Before the Crusade ever began, much prayer had ascended to God. Prayer meetings in homes and churches; city-wide prayer meetings at T.B.C.; private prayer in hundreds of "closets"; all combined to saturate a city that needed a spiritual shaking.

Dr. Graham arrived in Toronto on September 15th. After a press conference, Dr. Graham, Cliff Barrows, Jerry Beavan, and Douglas Percy (the Co-Chairman of the Toronto Committee) went to the C.N.E. Coliseum to see the arrangements that had been made. The great, cavernous Coliseum seemed as unlike a place for a religious service as was possible. Animals had but recently vacated the ring. The odour was being stifled under the heavier odour of disinfectant bombs. The great steel girders re-echoed the voice of Billy Graham, as he tested the acoustics.

The counselling room, still not ready, was investigated. The counting room, where offerings would be handled; the follow-up room; — all the places necessary for such a Crusade were investigated.

Then finally the four men entered a small, plywood-walled room. It was dusty and musty, and as bare as a barn. This was to be Dr. Graham's private room, and would soon be transformed with rugs, chairs, and lamps. Now it was a dirty shell.

Dr. Graham stood still for a moment, then falling full length in the dust and dirt, he said, "Men, let us pray."

The shell became a sanctuary; the Coliseum became a cathedral; the atmosphere became changed as before the altar of God, as the four men prayed.

The prayers were echoed around the world: India, Korea, Formosa, Africa, Europe, Great Britain, U.S.A., and Canada, all adding voices of believing men and women to the prayers of four men.

It is little wonder that God worked, and night after night saw the almost endless procession of those who would accept Christ as Saviour, and yield to Him as Lord.

Outstanding in our memory are the two special services that were held.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

ON October 8th, Cliff Barrow planned a special Children's Rally, to be held at 10.00 a.m. Plans were made well in advance, and churches, business firms and individuals paid for 275 chartered buses to bring them "decently and in order!"

What a thrilling sight to see over 12,000 children packed into the Coliseum. Noise, bustle, confusion, all these for two hours before the service was to start. Then order and attention, as the inimitable Cliff Barrows took over. Action choruses, special music, brief messages by Billy Graham and Grady Wilson.

Then Cliff telling the story of Na'aman the Leper, and his cleansing through the power of God. It was fascinating to see the story animated and captivating, portrayed before our eyes.

And the sight of 630 children over eleven years of age, simply, quietly, and with dignity, coming forward to give their hearts and lives to Christ! Here was fruit indeed, and many of us sat in choked emotion, as we saw the potential for Christ and His Kingdom in that steady stream.

MISSIONARY RALLY

FOR October 9th, plans were laid for a great Missionary Rally. Dr. Graham knew that a revived church must be a *going* church, and that young people saved, must also be young people *servng*.

Invited to the Rally were the representatives of 27 Mission Societies who have offices in or near Toronto. On the platform were 70 missionaries on furlough. And as Dr. Graham poured out his heart for a *world* that is lost without Christ, God touched many hearts.

At the invitation for a dedication of life, 682 young people under 30 years of age yielded their lives to Christ. God looked down and recorded vows and listed names that will some day shine in the annals of missionary service. It was a stirring sight. And 119 others were saved at the same meeting! God worked!

AND OTHERS . . .

WHAT a joy it was to see the young and the old; the deaf, dumb, blind, crippled and infirm; athletes and professional men: the "up and outs" and the "down and outs": all mingling together to accept Christ —

This is the miracle of the Toronto Crusade. And all because of prayer, and because we have a prayer-answering God!

Here are some side-lights of the Crusade:

WILL THE CONVERTS LAST?

THERE is one question that is always asked about evangelistic campaigns, those conducted by Dr. Graham or by other evangelists. "Will the converts last?" The experiences of some of the Counsellors and Advisers will help to answer that question.



The C.N.E. Coliseum, Toronto, where the Crusade was held.

There was the case of the young fellow who had the Counsellor put on his card, as the reason for his coming forward. "to seek a deeper experience." The Adviser, to whom the Counsellor brought this young man, questioned him as to just what blessing he had received. The answers to the Adviser's questions were very inadequate, as the youth himself realized, and finally he blurted out, "If you really want to know, I came out of curiosity to see Billy Graham, and my three friends over there came forward for the same reason." Now these four appear in the statistics as four "decisions for Christ." Will they "stand?" The answer is obvious: their sole motivation in coming forward was idle curiosity and no work of grace took place in their hearts.

Then again there was a woman, about 65 years of age, who came to the enquiry room. Neither her Counsellor nor the Adviser could discover in her any sense of sin. She claimed always to have lived a good life, without any imperfections, and yet she stated that she was always witnessing to others about God's goodness to her. Will she "stand?" Those who dealt with her could feel no assurance that she knew the Saviour since she would acknowledge no sin from which He could save her. She appears in the total of the Crusade statistics, but only God knows whether or not her name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

A third problem case was a new Canadian who came to Canada some four years ago. Just a few months ago, he sent to his homeland for his fiancée, and within thirty days of her arrival in Canada, as immigration regulations stipulate, they were married. After just a few weeks of married life the wife informed her husband that she had changed her mind about him during the years that they had been separated and she was not going to continue to live with him. This unfortunate man, confused and shocked, came to the enquiry room, but it was impossible

to tell, in dealing with him, whether he had grasped the significance of God's offer Christ of full and free salvation. It was impossible to discern whether he had come to find salvation for his soul, or merely a solution to his tragic problem. If his wife comes back, will he still want Christ? If his wife does not come back, has he found Christ? And this is one of those of whom the question will be asked, "Do the converts last?"

It is fairly obvious that not all those who came forward at Dr. Graham's invitation were really "born again." Some of them had no clear realization of what they were doing, and a few moments of counselling was insufficient to secure an enlightened decision. Perhaps in wise follow-up, they will have a clearer experience.

On the other hand, it is also abundantly clear to any Christian who has ever won souls to Christ that the great majority of the 8,000 who came forward were really saved at the Crusade. One of the most impressive features of the Campaign was the way in which people responded to the invitation. Why did they come? The only answer is that they came because the Holy Spirit of God brought them, and He brought a vast number of them all the way. The hearts of Counsellors and Advisers were thrilled times without number, as men and women, boys and girls, passed from death to life.

Many of those who came forward were brought by Christian friends who had been praying for them, and witnessing to them. These same friends took them home, their decisions made, to a keen church, a godly minister, a warm, spiritual fellowship. "Will those converts last?" As sure as Christ's death is a saving death, as sure as the promises of the eternal God are trustworthy, as sure as the Holy Spirit is active in the hearts of men, the answer can be confidently given — *they will stand.*

"WORKSHOP ON EVANGELISM"

FIVE minutes to eight — and no room! In the crowded Concert Hall of the Royal York Hotel, packed solid with hundreds of tables crowded with ministers, not a chair seemed empty. Only at each end of the vast banquet room was there movement: waiters carrying more tables and chairs, waitresses setting on dishes, and a queue of clergymen eagerly taking their places as seats became available.

What a token of the blessing to come — this mighty throng of Christian workers. What a thrill to hear those male voices ring out in unison "All hail the power of Jesus' Name." What a message rewarded nearly seven hundred breakfasting pastors as Dr. Billy Graham rose to speak.

Simply he described his boyhood back on the farm in North Carolina. In homely terms he pictured the unremitting toil required to wring a living from that unproductive soil, the ploughing, the seeding, the cultivating, the waiting for the grain to ripen. Then came the excitement, the rush and bustle, the savory fried chicken and luscious watermelon, as the professional harvestors pulled in to complete in a few days what had taken the labour of months to prepare.

Such is also a picture of God's "fields white unto harvest," Dr. Graham went on to say. The Team had come to Toronto as specialized harvest labourers in the Greater Toronto Crusade. There would be rush and bustle, crowds and excitement far beyond the ordinary routine of daily life. But the Team was under no illusion as to who had done the supremely important work. Without the weeks and

months of ploughing and preparing the ground, the sowing and cultivating of the Gospel seed, no harvest would be possible. The faithfulness of pastors and teachers, fulfilling their responsibilities in the care and nurture of the church is the all-important task, without which the Team could do nothing.

Again and again Dr. Graham emphasized his conviction that mass evangelism, such as used by the Team, is but *one* method of evangelism among several, and certainly not the best of them. When visitation evangelism is properly practiced it is much more effective. Mass evangelism has its limitations, of which the Team is very much aware, and here Dr. Graham took up one by one the arguments of his critics, and swept them into oblivion. Sane, tactful, and illuminating, as were his remarks, they were underlined by the persuasive power of his own passion for winning men to Christ which flashed forth at every turn of thought. Not Billy Graham, he reiterated, but the power of prayer unleashing the Almighty power of God; prayer poured out all over the world from millions of God's people for Toronto, is the reason for the results. One could not but glimpse the humility of the man, and the source of his outstanding success.

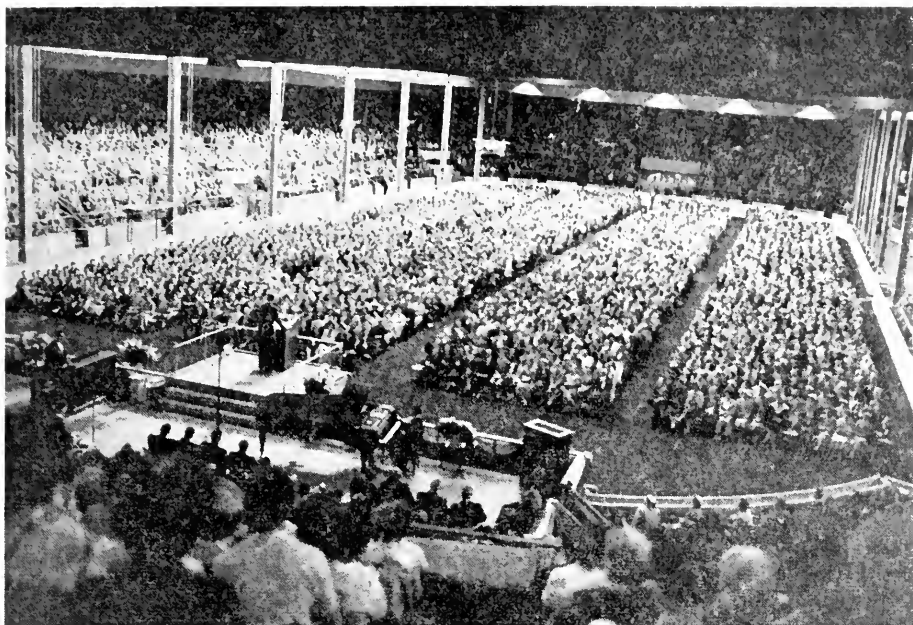
The gratifying attendance of ministers, the largest proportionately of any campaign, to this first breakfast held two days before the start of the Campaign, was prophetic. That first Friday morning set in motion what was the real beginning and inner core of the Crusade and its results.

Dr. Graham sought to answer every question in his audience during the following three sessions of the "Workshop on Evangelism," as an average of 580 Christian workers gathered for breakfast and study. The second Friday he declared that a silent Christian is the first betrayal of the religion which began its world-changing course when 120 disciples went everywhere preaching the Word. Acts 8:1 shows that it was not the Apostles but everyone else who were scattered abroad from Jerusalem, preaching the Gospel. The responsibility of the witnessing church rests squarely on the shoulders of every Christian, not just the ministry. He emphasized and enlarged on the wonderful results of visitation evangelism such as set forth in books like Dr. C. Archibald, "New Testament Evangelism"; or Samuel Zwemer, "Evangelism To-Day." A living church is a witnessing church and bears the mark of its character. It has first of all the note of certainty, the stamp of living spiritual experience, "Here is what Christ has done for me; this is what He can do for you."

Dr. Graham pointed out that statistics showed already that the Toronto Crusade was quite different from any other held by the Team. Instead of the usual age group (20-29) it was the group 30-39 which was predominant among those coming forward. Sixty-four percent of these were already affiliated with a church, and 60-65% were receiving Christ for the first time. The figure of 36% for non-church-goers coming forward was the smallest of any campaign to date.

Secondly, a witnessing church is under compulsion to evangelize by the urgency of seeking and saving those who are lost. Not the fervency of conceit, over-emphasizing some one doctrine to the detriment of others, but the contagious fervency of passion for the souls of men. As someone has said, Christ deserves a more flaming allegiance than Marx, yet the Communists often put us to shame.

Thirdly, evangelism needs continuity. It should be an all year round, not a seasonal task, with every part of the church evangelizing, every organization, every Christian taking his place.



Interior View of the Coliseum. The 11,000 seating capacity (seen here) was augmented by closed circuit T.V. for 5,00 more. Attendance averaged 100,000 per week.

FOLLOW UP

The third session was devoted to the all-important task of follow-up with Mr. Lorne Sanny, in charge of follow-up for the Team, giving the address. In this area, he pointed out, lies one of the greatest weaknesses of the church, which allows almost 50% of its professed members to drift away without a real attempt to discover the causes and provide remedies. This has meant a tragic loss of potential power and leadership in the church.

The objective of follow-up is the protection, feeding and training of babes in Christ, so that they reach mature Christian discipleship and assume responsible positions of usefulness and leadership in the body of Christ. He told of a leading Communist in Great Britain coming to Harringay to study the mass psychology of Billy Graham. He was converted, read the Gospel of John 100 times in a month, and in the 18 months since that campaign has led fifty to Christ.

As a parent pours out his life for his children, so must the warmth of a personal commitment to Christ in follow-up involve patience and sacrifice and suffering for the Christian. Nineteen times Jesus talked to one person in the Gospels. So must the pastor equip the saints in the pew for the edifying of the babes in Christ.

The Apostle Paul did his follow-up work in four ways: (1) He prayed for them. Christ spent all night in prayer before choosing the disciples, and it shows His attitude to and the need of prayer. (2) Paul paid a personal visit to them. (3) He wrote letters to them, and (4) He sent others to them — with greetings and advice by personal contact.

The final Workshop session was given over to the Rev. Joseph Blinco, evangelist on loan to the Crusade from the Methodist Church in Great Britain. As one who had taught evangelism for years at Cliff College in England, against a background of years of experience in the pastorate, his treatment of the *motive, method* and *goal* of evangelism was a soul-shaking experience for all present. A product of the rough life of an English mining town, Mr. Blinco saw the amazing power of the Gospel change in the course of a meeting, the godless, dissipated lives of his father, his mother, and himself. His own youth revolutionized by the work of the Holy Spirit, from then on he lived only for evangelism, to see men and women transformed in the way his own family had found life and joy and peace.

But when he began training for Christian service he found evangelism scorned as something intellectually inferior, psychologically unsound, theologically outmoded; merely an old-fashioned, outdated relic of past history. He could not accept such a verdict on what had accomplished such marvels in his own life and experience. Yet it was not until the crucial days of 1939 when England was facing her darkest hour, when the miracle of the Dunkirk evacuation had just happened, when Churchill had promised only "blood, sweat and tears" for the defenders of the little isles, that attitudes began to change. A Methodist Conference heard a rousing speech to forget evangelism and get on with winning the war. There rang out a resounding "NO! We must speak as dying men to dying men. We must evangelize." This dynamic spread, until even the Anglican Church, until then lukewarm about evangelism, brought out the now famous booklet: "Towards the Conversion of England."

The amazing culmination was Harringay, those wonderful three months when the power of God was liberated in the lives of thousands of men and women; when over a hundred thousand gathered at Wembley, quite impossible in the forties, but when the hour was ripe, a glorious reality. Here was evangelism coming into its own, meeting the hunger and heartache of the people; Christ becoming known in all His fulness.

MOTIVE OF EVANGELISM

Mr. Blinco shared with his audience the convictions that lay on his heart. One of the most clamant questions was, "Why evangelize?" Many clergymen, he declared, do not evangelize because they have nothing to preach, the truths of evangelism, of the Gospel, are not experimentally real in their own lives. He illustrated from the life of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, a scholar, a preacher, and a missionary in the Church of England. But his whole ministry was singularly ineffective until that day when listening to the preface of Luther's Epistle to the Galatians, his heart was strangely warmed. He went forth with the inner power of evangelism, a man sent of God, whose message transformed the England of his day. At Harringay a man came forward who had been trained, excellently, for the ministry, but who had left it twenty-five years before, to become a draftsman. How he mourned those wasted, desert years when he had nothing to say, when God met him through the message of Dr. Graham and sent him forth on fire for Christ. The life of God in the soul of man has no substitute if we are to obey our marching orders — evangelize.

METHOD OF EVANGELISM

Evangelism has a theology; must have a theology. The doctrines of God and man, sin and grace, strike at the heart of all life, and must be known and communicated for true evangelism. Only against a background of belief that man was made in the likeness of God, and made for God, can we catch the vision of evangelism. There are living, dying, unsaved souls out there — we must believe that God can save. There they are for whom Christ died. As Paul cried out to King Agrippa, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." Are we obedient? Evangelism loses no opportunities to speak the Gospel.

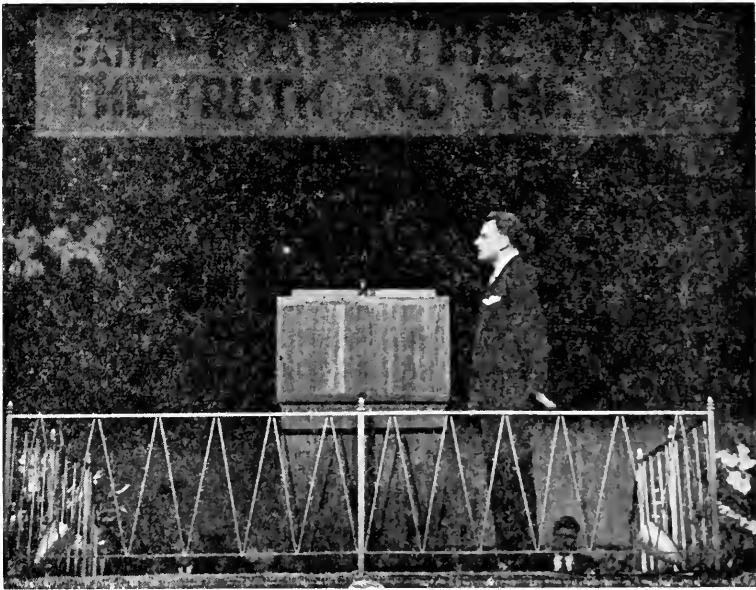
Evangelism too has a goal, and how far short of it we fall in our objective in evangelism. So many of our people in the church are unconverted. It is not enough that we bring them merely within the sound of the Gospel, we must bring them through to Christian reality of life. How many of us could really lead a man to Christ, even if he sought us out and asked us to do so? As one minister said to me, that is the only thing not taught in our theological seminaries; and yet it is the most important thing. If someone asked you, "How can I find Christ?" what would you do, or say? One convert said to a Christian friend after the London meetings, "Why didn't you take me aside a long time ago and say these things to me?"

GOAL OF EVANGELISM

Mr. Blinco stressed the necessity of care when interesting others in evangelism. It doesn't help the cause of evangelism when we try to force it upon others, like the pompous, overbearing chap who went to his deacons' meeting at his local church after his conversion at Haringay, and suddenly burst out when the question of reviving the prayer meeting was being discussed, "What this church needs is a revival."

When Mr. Blinco had gone to his first mission in a large industrial city, he knew what they had to do, and told the people to meet him and they would go out to the theatres and cinemas and pubs to speak to men for Christ. No one met him. He found he had to start by sharing the task with them, having them go out with him one by one, until they caught the vision and were willing to go themselves. He pressed home the truth that only as we in patience and co-operation bring our brethren to see the great truth and power behind evangelism will they come to the place of walking in the steps of Christ who "came to seek and to save that which was lost."

To some, the tremendous crowds who thronged the Graham meetings have been the highlight of the campaign. To others, the hundreds swelling into thousands by the final night, who have gone forward to receive Christ as Saviour and Lord, have constituted the major triumph of the campaign. But it may be that in the long view, what will accomplish most for the Kingdom of God, and thus foster the spiritual revival to come, was the response of the ministers and Christian workers who gathered Friday by Friday at breakfast to face this challenge of evangelism under the searching light of the Holy Spirit.



Dr. Graham preaches under the banner text "Jesus saith, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.'"

OUR EXPERIENCES, as told by students:

I

(As written by a German girl, just recently come to Canada, now studying at T.B.C. Ed.).

“**U**NTO God belongs thanks and all the glory — for all that each one of us have already seen through the Evangelistic Campaign in Toronto.

It was a real privilege for me to see the greatest Evangelistic Campaign in my life! Christ has worked marvelous, and I am thankful from the bottom of my heart for this little part He has given me in the Crusade!

Since those very day I know that we shall have Dr. Billy Graham Crusade in Toronto, were my prayer in the specially way lifted up to God. My heart was crying out for souls, not only in the Campaign, but that Christ may give *me* some souls!

And there was the answer from my heavenly Father, when I received a letter with my Counsellor's Badge. Christ my Saviour and Lord trusted me to deal with souls! My heart was filled with joy! I was crying out in prayer to become holy — for God.

To become a soul as never in my life before, a soul that is yearning for God, and to please Him in my daily living till the end of my life.

To become a soul winner — for Christ's sake! What a joy was this to see how great and in a marvelous way the Holy Spirit of God Himself swept — not only through the big Coliseum, but across Toronto.

Never in my life have I seen the Holy Spirit so powerfully working. There my eyes have seen that the Word of God was really more than a two-edged sword who cut the hearts of people down like grass.

That thousand upon thousand received Christ as their Saviour. Specially my heart was giving thanks and glory unto God when over 600 people (young men and women) dedicated their lives completely to Christ in His service as missionaries.

I believe with my heart that everyone who just took part in Crusade will never, never in their life be anymore the same. But be far more out for Christ, Who is the holy, mighty, risen Saviour of the whole world.

Praise and glory unto God for such a servant of Christ like Dr. Billy Graham, a man of God which I never before have seen in my life.

I know in my heart that Christ Jesus will use mightily not only me, but each person who is willing to pay the price in their life for Christ's sake.

Who seek out with their hearts and lives to follow Christ and to live for his sake.

Of those I dealt with, the result was 14 clear-cut decisions for Christ, and 3 assurance of salvation. My prayer will be more than ever before lifted up to God. For everyone I come daily in touch."

II

"**A**TTENDING the Graham Crusade and leading teen-age girls to Christ was such a thrill! I marvel at the souls God won to Himself during those four weeks.

That which meant even more to me was the way Dr. Graham addressed the Christians. Those things which many of us considered harmless habits were exposed as pride, selfishness, vanity, sin! I cannot understand how any of God's children could walk into the Coliseum, listen to our Heavenly Father speak through Dr. Graham, and then walk out unchanged.

I thank the Lord for sending Dr. Graham to Toronto, and for the changes God has wrought in my personal life and my relationship to Himself."

III

"**I**T was not Billy Graham, but the Holy Spirit at work in answer to our prayers that brought so many people to their 'hour of decision'. I was impressed by the great things God did and will do if we do our part.

As Counsellor, the question that came to my mind after talking with a lady in the counselling room was, 'What will happen at her home?' My question has been answered as I made further contact after the campaign. I phoned her to ask if I could help her in any way. She challenged and helped me!

Since the first day of the campaign when she accepted Christ as her Saviour, she has been a real missionary. The Lord has used her to win her husband who was a Roman Catholic, her twelve-year-old daughter, and her brother to Jesus Christ. Her brother has had several police records and at present is serving a term. Through her witness and giving him a Gospel of John he read and memorized several verses. Now he is willing to take his punishment after which he desires to enter the ministry. He took his wife to the campaign and went forward with her when she expressed a desire to accept Christ as Saviour too.

Isn't it wonderful that the campaign is not over? The new converts are now working too."

IV

"**A** TEEN-AGED girl from Parkdale Collegiate made her decision for Jesus Christ at the seventh meeting she had attended.

That night Dr. Graham spoke of the excuse people give in order to postpone making a decision.

She told me, 'When he said the last excuse is to put it off until another time, he was looking right at me. I knew that had been my excuse.'

She also went forward on a Sunday afternoon to dedicate her life to the Lord, and feels that when she graduates from school the next step will be to enrol at Toronto Bible College.

We should pray that the Lord will lead many more young people in this direction."

V

"**A** YOUNG woman came to the Lord during the last week of the Graham Crusade. She had been the leader of a young people's group for a number of years in New Toronto.

She is alone in the world now, no family and few friends now, since she spent two years in the hospital with a serious illness; she feels her friends have forsaken her.

She said, 'there is no love in my life, no one cares for me.'

What a joy to show her the love of Jesus Christ Who died and gave Himself to save her, and now she would never be alone again, for the Holy Spirit would dwell within her, comfort and teach her, through the Word of God."

VI

“A YOUNG married couple in Toronto attended one of the last meetings of the Crusade. They were late in arriving, so had to stand at the back throughout the message, and were among the first to come forward during the invitation.

The wife, a professional musician, came to make a public acknowledgment of her acceptance of Christ. The husband, the manager of a real estate company in Toronto, came to accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour for the first time.

The message from God's Word of their personal need had been made so clear to them, they came eagerly to the front, wondering why all the other people in the building were not rising to their feet to join them.

This couple have no real church affiliation. Pray that they will be guided to choose wisely, and that they will witness to their business associates and friends of the saving power of Jesus Christ in their lives.”

VII

“A S a counsellor, I was blessed when I attended the Children's Meeting on the third Saturday of the campaign. After a dramatic presentation of the story of Na'Aman the leper, many children realized that they had a more infectious disease than leprosy — sin! Over 600 boys and girls came down the aisles of the big Coliseum to profess Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

At this meeting I counselled a girl named Marilyn, who accepted Christ as her Saviour for the first time. On the following Tuesday, Marilyn came back to the meetings and brought her girl friend with her. It was a joy to both Marilyn and me when we saw her friend go forward to accept our Saviour too. I am now a spiritual grandmother, and I certainly feel old!”

VIII

“I T was a cold and chilly afternoon that Sunday when I hurriedly made my way to the Coliseum on the closing day of the Crusade. Finding the main entrance closed due to capacity crowds, I made my way to the extension entrance where a makeshift relay radio was attached in the center of that bare and cold auditorium hall. There was absolute silence in the place. Walking over to the center of the room, I was surprised to see how men and women, young and old, stood. There was no place to sit, except for a wooden bench here and there. Billy Graham was at his very best, his voice resounded with energy and power, as he was making the simple facts of salvation known to the thousands gathered there.

There seemed to be a peculiar atmosphere in the hall, perhaps an atmosphere of expectation, of tension, a climatic incident perhaps. The people gathered were typical of those one would find in a large mass meeting. But why were they here?



Part of the more than 12,000 children who thronged the Coliseum on Saturday morning for a special children's rally.

Perhaps it was curiosity, or a chance to scoff, or perhaps lack of anything to do? Perhaps a chance to get into 'the show!' But whatever the earthly motives were, 'God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.'

Next to me, leaning against a wooden rail, was a woman, who seemed to have been through heartache and difficulty. She was weeping with her hands covering her face, her kerchief had slipped half-way, and her hair was hanging untidily over her shoulders. As she raised her tear-stained face. I saw her painted face, with deep lines under her eyes, a face that had suffered in the fall. Perhaps she had never had an opportunity in life. Now she was finding in the message that was being so powerfully proclaimed, that there was hope. Take a look at the Crucified One: Look and Live!

But I will never forget the other couple who stood by my side: a well-dressed man and woman. He looked like an executive, and she a society woman. They had been standing there quietly, but now, as the invitation was being given, they moved forward. She was weeping. It just seemed that her heart would break, as she shook with sorrow and whatever was on her heart. Her husband seemed weighed down, and as they moved forward I slipped towards them, hoping that in my capacity as a counsellor, I could be of help. As I watched her and her husband surrendering their hearts to our Lord, I felt a deep feeling of awe and humility at the almighty power of God, and His unsearchable ways.

Yes, there they were, in all walks of life, men and women, young and old, stripped of the cloke which humans hide themselves in, now in desperate need, and with one basic and fundamental desire for God. And they found Him!"

IX

“THE first meeting I attended, as a member of the choir, I had difficulty in realizing that here was a gospel meeting, for, never before had I seen such a crowd of people seeking to hear God speak through a man. It was not until the choir started to sing ‘Just as I am’ that I felt the overwhelming nearness of the Spirit of God. Tears started to well up in my eyes, as I saw people, first in ones and twos, and then in crowds, come forward, seeking the truth and the way of life.

It was not until the last meeting, held on Sunday afternoon, that the Lord used me to aid in the guidance of a soul into His Kingdom. The weather was unpleasant, but did not deter the largest crowd assembled at the Coliseum.

As I entered the counselling room I did not know if I would be needed but, almost immediately I was signalled to sit down beside a 34-year-old news vendor. After taking his name I asked why he had come forward.

His answer came plain and straight-forward, with no emotion, ‘I am a sinner. I want to accept Jesus Christ as my Saviour.’ My heart immediately went out to this man who had come to the cross and repented of his sin. To make sure he knew he was now a child of God, I took him through some Scriptures, and gave him a Gospel of St. John. There I introduced him to an Adviser who must have seen the joy I was trying to conceal in that one more soul had been brought into the body of Christ.”

X

“I have been a Christian now for about two years. During this time I have had a great deal of ambition to serve the Lord, but I have also had a great deal of reluctance in doing it His way. I had sought to follow my own will and had always been one jump ahead of the Lord. I sought to lead a young people’s group in my church, but failed miserably, due to lack of mature Christian thinking. I had planned, organized, and dictated policy for the group, with the result that before long I found myself in a very poor spiritual condition, so I was forced to concede the leadership of the group to one who had more experience.

Soon afterwards I decided that I should serve the Lord as a full-time worker on a gospel truck in the north, with the same disastrous results. I went along in my own strength until self effort failed, then I was forced to take the humble place and concede that it had never been the Lord’s will in the first place. The Lord showed me that He could do very well without my help, and my ego suffered a severe blow.

Returning from the north country, I was in a very poor spiritual condition and I had to admit that I was a backslider. I marvel now and praise God for His grace in holding me up, when I could easily have gone back into the world and a life of sin.

When the Graham meetings began I was still in a spiritual slump. I was wandering around as in a daze. I just didn’t know what to do. My testimony was spoiled and my friends no longer trusted me. I volunteered as a Crusade choir

member for I love to sing. The first service touched my heart, and as I sang I found the old joy returning. Remorse flooded in upon me as I realized how far I had strayed away and when the invitation was given I heard the Lord speaking softly to my soul, 'Son, give me thy heart.' I was broken, and amid others made my way forward to find peace and restoration and joy that had once been my portion. I had learned my lesson on humility the hard way, but it is a lesson I will never forget. Truly the school of experience is God's way to teach us these valuable lessons.

Night after night I sat in the choir, praying for those who came to make their decisions for Christ, and every night God answered prayer and performed His miracle before my eyes. This was God working, and it was wonderful to behold.

And so the Crusade went on. But I was still far from knowing what the Lord wanted me to do with my life. I had a good job and was firmly resolved to work my way to the top, to prove to others that their confidence could be regained by sheer hard work and effort. However, God was not to have things so, and something I had not planned on was brought to pass.

The Sunday afternoon missionary rally for young people was a day I shall always remember, for it was on that day God started to do things for me. After listening to the message I was very burdened, and was sitting next to a friend, when Billy Graham called for young people to go forward and surrender to the Lord for full-time service. I whispered to my companion, 'I can't do it because I just don't trust myself, my heart deceives me so easily.'

He said, 'Why don't you step out upon the promises of God and trust Him?'

That settled it. Again I got up out of my seat and went forward, but this time it was for a different purpose. Bible School had always been my ambition but I had given up the idea, because of insufficient funds and lack of assurance that it was the Lord's will. After I had made my decision the Lord gave me some money almost within minutes. My friend told me that he had been praying about me for a couple of weeks and that the Lord had told him I should go to school, and had laid it on his heart to give me \$100.00 for that purpose. I thanked him and told him I would think it over, and let him know in a few days.

I went home and at supper that night discussed the school with my parents, but did not tell them right away about the kind offer. Then the second surprise came when my father said he would clear off a debt I had to help me out. This must be of the Lord I felt, for after two years the way had at last opened up, and I was in a position to have Bible School training. I prayed earnestly about it, and the Lord gave me peace within, so I took the step of faith and came to T.B.C. I have been here some time now, and I still have confidence that I am in the Lord's will. Never have I experienced such fellowship or joy in the presence of the Lord's own people, and it has done much to be in such a place of dedication and earnestness.

What have the Graham meetings done for me? They were the means of my restoration, dedication, renewing of joy, purpose and trust in the Lord. They have been the turning point in my own life, and I just wish I could meet some of these critics face to face. They sit back and argue about Billy's methods, message, etc. If they only had my experience they might change their minds in a hurry! Praise God for a man like Dr. Graham. God bless him!"



Annual Christmas Carol Service

at

TORONTO BIBLE COLLEGE

Thursday, December 15th, 8.00 P.M.

All Students, Alumni and Friends are invited to come
and sing the grand Christmas Carols.

Arthur R. Poynter, Director of Music, will conduct the
service, assisted by the T.B.C. Evangelistic Choir.



Christmas Dinner

(sponsored by T.B.C. Evening Classes)

Thursday, December 15th, 6.00 P.M.

All Evening Class Students, T.B.C. Alumni and Friends
are welcome.

Good Programme - - - Warm Fellowship

Tickets MUST be secured in advance — Price \$1.25

Please Phone WA. 1-5808 for your reservation.

Carol Service follows at 8.00 P.M.





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Blessed Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

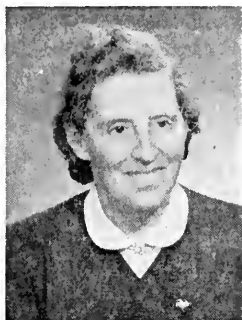
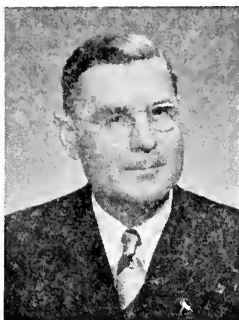
to all

T.B.C. ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS

AROUND THE WORLD



T.B.C. IN AFRICA!



Rev. and Mrs. Victor Veary.

The following letter was sent to Rev. John Russel ('39), Canadian Secretary of the S.U.M., from Rev. Victor ('23) and Mrs. ('23) Veary who serve the S.U.M. in French Equatorial Africa. Mrs. Russell had made a tape recording of a T.B.C. service for the Vearys, and sent it out to the field. The service took place in the Veary's Home Church. This letter records the feeling of those who "shared" a T.B.C. service. (Ed.).

"Dear John:

Simply had to write to you. You have brought our home folks and Pastor Linton and our Pape Avenue Baptist Church family so near to us, that we want to send you a word of great thankfulness and appreciation of your thoughtfulness. Here is how we felt about it.

This is front page news in our morning Koutou Daily Paper. . . .

Rev. Anderson Linton of Pape Avenue Baptist Church, Toronto, Canada, preached in Koutou, Moundou, Tchad, A.E.F., Sunday evening, March 27th. His pulpit was the terrace of the S.U.M. Mission House. His voice carried far off into Koutou village for the night was still. With him on the platform was the Rev. John Russell, General Secretary of the S.U.M., Canadian Branch. He was not a stranger to the congregation, for it was his second visit to the Tchad District. Seated just near Rev. John Russell was Rev. T. Maxwell, a member of the S.U.M. Home Council, and also on the Faculty of Toronto Bible College.

Rev. Linton's message was on "The will of God for life and service." The congregation of white missionaries, 7 adults and 2 children, drank in every word of this message; each knew it was the Lord's word to them and they feasted upon it like hungry souls. Such an unexpected visit from the Veary's pastor took their breath away and they haven't recovered yet. To the whole Mission staff on the field it was great to hear their Home Secretary to give them a word of encouragement. Mr. Swayze was also on the platform with them. He has been a faithful member of the Home Council from the very beginning and the missionaries thrilled to hear him read a precious Psalm to them.

This visiting party of distinguished folk from Canada understand how lonely the missionaries are and how rarely they hear good hymn singing, so they very kindly asked the Toronto Bible College Choir to accompany them on this visit and they went the second mile, for they brought a piano with them and Mrs. Douglas Percy to play the piano! As she began to play and the choir began to sing under the able leadership of Rev. A. Poynter, all present were lifted into the Heavens. The Veary's couldn't lift their heads up, they were bowed in prayer and praise throughout the whole service. And when the choir sang "When I survey the wondrous Cross," it was really sublime and every heart present was low at the cross and said again with full abandonment, "Love so amazing, so divine, shall have my soul, my life, my all."

Introducing the speakers and the choir pieces was Roy Dixon. He is a member of Pastor Linton's Church and also Head Boy at the T.B.C. last year. All present delighted to hear his voice and they coveted him for service, full time service amongst them. Never before in the history of the S.U.M., had the missionaries heard such a group of God's devoted servants coming to minister to them. Never before in the history of the Mission had such an event occurred. This visit will surely go down in history. Their visit will never be forgotten, it will count for Eternity.

The climax of this service was a timely word from Rev. Maxwell who was also a missionary. He understands well the problems, and his sympathetic words brought great comfort to the missionaries.

Then the choir sang the T.B.C. Benediction, "The Lord bless thee and keep thee." It melted every heart, the Veary's were transported back to their T.B.C. days when they used to sing the same prayer of blessing. To them T.B.C. had really come to Koutou. And as their heads were still bowed, the voice of their pastor rang out in a closing prayer and ended with these words, "The same loving arms hold us and fold us safe in Thy keeping." What a service! And what a charge to press on and never look back!

Still another wonderful event. On the Friday evening, March 25th, the members of the Pape Avenue Ladies Mission Circle arrived at the Mission Home at Koutou. They came by plane, as did the other party. Mrs. Weir, the beloved President, was in charge of the party and took charge of the meeting which was held in the Veary's living room. The room was crowded! It was a great joy to welcome them, especially to welcome Mrs. Anderson Linton. Two of her daughters accompanied her and later gave a word of greeting in the young people's meeting! What a thrill to welcome Frances McAlpine back. She was right at home and spoke in Ngambai too! Mrs. John Russell was warmly welcomed because last time her husband came, she stayed home to keep the home fires burning. It was nice to hear her word of testimony. Mrs. Wallis moved all present with that fine solo "No need of the sunlight in heaven we're told." It touched every heart and the tears flowed: in fact as each member of the Circle spoke, the tears ran more and more. It was most thoughtful of the ladies to bring eats with them, chocolate cake and tea. Some had to drink out of calabashes, there were not enough cups to go around.

Arriving just a little later were the Young People of Pape Avenue. Such a happy crowd of Christian young folk, with Mel Osborne in charge of the meeting and Sam Gust, the President. Margaret Wallis was at the piano and also sang a lovely solo. So did Helen Beatty. The trio by the Osborne boys was greatly enjoyed. They are a fine trio!

Last, but not the least in this past week-end's startling and unheard of events, through the kindness and thoughtfulness of Rev. John Russell, he arranged for Mr. Veary's mother (who was just celebrating her 88th birthday) to pay a surprise visit, with Mr. Veary's two sisters and a brother travelling with her.

The unexpected arrival of such distinguished people from Canada has turned Koutou town and Mission Station upside down. The Veary's don't know yet whether they are coming or going. After Sunday evening's service, hearing Pastor Linton and Rev. Russell, and the T.B.C. choir, they couldn't sleep. Monday morning they searched every nook and corner in the house and compound to find their guests. Their presence was very real, they are still around, and we expect to knock into them at every turn.

This will give you a little idea of how we feel after listening to your wonderful tape recording; it has done something to us: it made us feel you were right here. In fact, your voices were so real we closed our eyes and reached out to give you a hand shake. It is a spiritual tonic to us and out of full hearts we say a big "thank you and God bless and repay you."

Very gratefully yours,

FLORENCE AND VICTOR VEARY.

CHRISTIAN WORKERS' BUREAU

FOR some time the T.B.C. Alumni Office has had a Christian Workers' Bureau. It is primarily designed to bring together organizations that need help and graduates who are seeking a sphere of service.

Lists on hand include Mission Societies that are seeking office and clerical help, and other Christian employers.

Graduates who are seeking a place of service also place their names here, and thus contacts are made.

If you are in either category, seeking employees or employment, feel free to write or phone the Alumni Office, 14 Spadina Road, WAlnut 1-5808. T.B.C. is happy to serve in this way.

ALUMNI NEWS

Compiled by Sylvia Smith, '45

PERSONALS

Rev. Joseph Koffend, '25, was inducted into the ministry of the First Presbyterian Church, Truro, Nova Scotia, on October 20.

Rev. George McAlpine, E.C. '37, began his ministry at Oakwood Baptist Church on November 13.

Olive Shell, '44, has returned to her work in Peru under W.B.T.

William Lawrence, '45, received the Doctor of Theology Degree from Burton College and Seminary, Manitou Springs, Colorado, at the Convocation in July.

Mary Marshall, '47, is attending Teachers' College at North Bay.

Elvin Harbottle, '48, is studying French in Paris.

Mrs. Peter Amy (Ruth Tolley, '49) is en route home by way of the British Isles. Mrs. Amy's work is in Bolivia with the C.B.F.M.B.

Douglas Ropp, '49, is ministering to the Canboro, North Cayuga and Windercker Baptist Churches while studying at McMaster University.

Seymour Boyce, '51, was ordained on October 16 into the ministry of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec. The service was held at Stewart Memorial Church, Hamilton, where he is pastor. Rev. Benjamin Gearo, '45, offered the Prayer of Ordination.

Robert Clubine, '52, received the B.A. degree at the Spring Convocation of Waterloo College and is continuing his studies at the Ontario College of Education in Toronto.

Douglas Coombs, '52, received the B.A. degree from McMaster University

and is continuing his studies towards the B.D. degree. He has accepted the call of the Kensington Avenue Baptist Church, Hamilton.

Howard Smith, '53, received the B.A. degree from Waterloo College at the Spring Convocation, and is now attending Knox College.

OVERSEAS

Rev. George Rice, '30, left Toronto on November 7 to return to Argentina under the N.T.M.U.

Winifred Simpkins, '36, has arrived in the Belgian Congo where she serves under the W.M.S. of the Regular Baptists.

Shirley Janes, '54, and Dave Mitton, '55, have arrived in Guadeloupe, French West Indies, under W.I.M.

KEY TO MISSIONS

C.B.F.M.B. — Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

N.T.M.U. — New Testament Missionary Union.

W.B.T. — Wycliffe Bible Translators.

W.I.M. — West Indies Mission.

MARRIAGES

Hilda Reed, '50, to L. J. Elcock on June 18 at Walmer Road Baptist Church.

On August 6 in the McKenzie Memorial Church, Stratford, Olive Richards, '54, to Hugh Worsfold, '53. Rev. John Hadall, '31, officiated; Jean Martin, '53, and Merle Clement, '54, were bridesmaids and the soloist was Margaret Young, E.C. '54-'55.

In Ossington Baptist Church, on September 17, John Montgomery, '38, to Elsie Jedel. Rev. E. A. Pinkerton, '23, officiated; Evelyn Rusnell, '43, was bridesmaid; and Lewis Neff, '35-'36, was best man.

Laura Northcott, '50, to Burvel Dowty, on October 12 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

On October 13 in the Villa Victoria Church, LaPaz, Bolivia, Ruth Tolley, '49, to Peter Amy.

Dorothy Axt, '52, to Fred Allen, '55, on October 29th at Preston, Ontario. Iner Robinson, '55, was an usher.

On November 9th in Faith Baptist Church, Jean Bennett, '55, to David Nichol, '53-'54. Margaret Robinson, '56, was bridesmaid; Douglas Sherwood, '57, soloist; and James Mackie, '57, usher.

BIRTHS

To Mr. Douglas, '49, and Mrs. Ropp, a daughter, Ruth Victoria, in London, on January 9, 1954, and a son, Wayne Malcolm, on August 19, 1955, at Hamilton.

On July 1, 1954, a son, David Arthur, to Mr. James and Mrs. (Edna Clymer, '46) Walker.

A son, Paul Eugene, in August, 1954, to Mr. Burton, '47, and Mrs. (Margaret Rideout, '46) Hoyt.

To Mr. Gordon and Mrs. (Elsie Bull, '46) Langman on August 24, 1954, a daughter, Ethel Doreen.

On December 17, 1954, a daughter, Deborah Lynn, to Mr. Boyer and Mrs. (Norine Hewer, '44) Wild at Boston, Massachusetts.

A son, David James, on April 3 in London, to Mr. James (E.C. '42) and Mrs. (Audrey Hewer, E.C. '42) Gilchrist.

To Mr. Jack and Mrs. (Irene Gamey, '44) McArthur, a son, Ivan, in June.

On July 26, to Mr. Dean and Mrs. (Evelyn Wallace, '49) Burns, a son, Philip Edward.

In the new Mt. Sinai Hospital, on July 26, a daughter, Margaret Dalyce, to Mr. Percy and Mrs. (Marion, '50) Newby.

At St. Marys, on July 29, a son, Stephen Robert Harwin, to Rev. Russell, '39, and Mrs. (Alice Gleason, '46) Self.

To Rev. J. K. and Mrs. (Lillian, '51-'52) Zeman, on August 7 at Simcoe, a daughter, Dagmar Elizabeth.

On September 10, at Toronto Western Hospital, a daughter, Pamela June, to Jim, '57, and Gloria ('54-'55) Lewis.

To Mr. L. T. and Mrs. (Marguerite Caswell, '52) Trueman, on September 14, a daughter, Maybeth Lily.

In Montreal on October 5, a daughter, Linda Louise, to Mr. Elvin, '48, and Mrs. (Lolita Kelley, '49) Harbottle.

A chosen son, David John, to Rev. Thomas, '52, and Mrs. (Betty) Swan, on May 17, at the age of 2½ years.

DEATHS

At the Durham Memorial Hospital, Rev. J. W. Hisey, '09-'10, on April 3rd.

A. Earl Smith, '37-'39, on June 11 at Banff, Alberta.

On July 28, Rev. Albert G. C. Simpson, '04, at Langham, Saskatchewan.

Mrs. W. E. Tatum (Elizabeth Hall, '97) on August 22. Upon graduation Mrs. Tatum was accepted by the C.I.M. Later she entered the American Baptist Mission in China, as the wife of Rev. William Tatum.

At Flint, Michigan, on August 25, Rev. M. Z. Bacchus, '15, of the Assyrian Protestant Mission.

Mrs. James Barr (Dorothy V. Rutherford, E.C. '42) in Toronto, late in September.

On October 16, Rev. Levi Atkinson, '13, while conducting a service in the Terra Nova United Church.

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