

Subject:

Michael McKibben: In memory of Rev. Billy Graham

A life of faithfulness to God

# MICHAEL MCKIBBEN, FOUNDER, LEADER TECHNOLOGIES, INVENTOR OF SOCIAL NETWORKING: IN MEMORY OF DR. BILLY GRAHAM

by Michael McKibben



<https://youtu.be/HTHxivBCahA>

**Jan. 21, 2018**—I never met Dr. Billy Graham, but so many of my friends and former colleagues have that I feel like I have. I certainly have in spirit.

In 1945, my father as a 19-year old U.S. Army soldier in the occupation force, helped start a Youth For Christ (YFC) orphanage for Japanese children who had lost their families after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs. Billy Graham had become YFC's first evangelist the year before.

In late 1973, my wife Nancy and I joined the Gospel music group Living Sound. Living Sound had just completed a concert tour in South Africa a few months earlier where they had sung in [Dr.](#)

[Graham's groundbreaking Durban, South Africa Crusade](#). They also toured with Andrea Crouch and the Disciples. The tour with Andrea Crouch helped break the stranglehold of apartheid. It was the first fully integrated Gospel concert tour in South Africa's history. No doubt Billy Graham's influence was instrumental in making it happen.



South Africa's first fully integrated public meeting was a Billy Graham Crusade held in Durban in 1973.

The day after the Durban rally, the city's main newspaper ran the headline, "[APARTHEID DOOMED](#)." Graham wrote of the trip in *Just As I Am*, "I left South Africa convinced that apartheid was un-Christian and unworkable. ... A start had been made, and for that we thanked God." <https://youtu.be/HTHxivBCahA>

From [The Billy Graham Story](#) by Revd Dr John Charles Pollock. Zondervan (1985)

By 1973 Cassidy was able to promote an interracial, integrated congress of evangelism at Durban, which Billy Graham addressed. At King's Park rugby stadium in Durban on the Sunday afternoon of the congress, and at Wanderer's cricket ground in Johannesburg a week later, Billy preached to completely integrated audiences.

At Durban, so quiet and good-natured was the crowd that the police dogs, which were usually needed to separate brawlers when different races came in big numbers to a stadium, were soon returned to the vans. The police kept out of sight. Apartheid had even been lifted from the restrooms. The friendliness of the races,

By 1973 Cassidy was able to promote an interracial, integrated congress of evangelism at Durban, which Billy Graham addressed. At King's Park rugby stadium in Durban on the Sunday afternoon of the congress, and at Wanderer's cricket ground in Johannesburg a week later, Billy preached to completely integrated audiences.

At Durban, so quiet and good-natured was the crowd that the police dogs, which were usually needed to separate brawlers when different races came in big numbers to a stadium, were soon returned to the vans. The police kept out of sight. Apartheid had even been lifted from the restrooms. The friendliness of the races,

The father of one of our dearest friends, the late baritone Tim Hoover (Indianapolis, IN), attended seminary with Cliff Barrows, Billy's lifelong music director.

After our groundbreaking openings in the Soviet Union (1979-1983) when I was Living Sound's European Director, Dr. Graham followed up on our work with a 12-day visit to Moscow, Leningrad, Tallinn, and Novosibirsk. He worshipped with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Pimen I in a Moscow liturgy, and preached in a number of the churches with whom we had worked.

Between 1987-1991, [The Singing Revolution](#) occurred in the Baltics. Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev pulled out his tanks rather than run over Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian choirs.

*A single nation. A million voices. The fall of an empire.*



<https://singingrevolution.com/>

Dr. Graham's faithfulness to a simple, straightforward Gospel message was unmistakable. It has been a

clarion call for me my entire life.

We pray that Dr. Graham's family will be comforted at this time of Billy's passage, but know that their sorrow is certainly also joy, since Dr. Graham's passing is just a transition in his eternal journey where he now joins the Great Cloud of Witnesses who are cheering us on as we run the race of life:

Hebrews 12 New International Version (NIV)

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

God bless you all,

Michael McKibben  
Founder and CEO  
Leader Technologies, Inc.



<https://americans4innovation.blogspot.com>



<https://aim4truth.org/>

**Notices:** This message and its links may contain opinion. As with all opinion, it should not be relied upon without independent verification. Think for yourself. Fair Use is relied upon for all content. No claims are made to the properties of third parties. For educational purposes only.