

# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

"Before we can effectively prepare people for their AD (After Death), God often molds us in His BC (Boot Camp)."

## Billy Graham BC

"In the spring of 1934 Billy Graham's father allowed a group of Charlotte businessmen to use a portion of the family's dairy farm to gather for a day of prayer. They prayed that out of Charlotte, the Lord would raise up someone to preach the Gospel to the ends of the Earth." President Trump Feb 27, 2018

"When Graham was a young teenager, he was turned down for membership in a local youth group for being "too worldly". Then, at age 16, he was converted during a series of revival meetings that were held in Charlotte led and lead by evangelist Mordecai Ham. After graduating from high school in 1936, Billy attended a Bible college in Tennessee. After one semester, he found it too legalistic in both coursework and rules. He was almost expelled. The director explained that if kept going the way he was going, nothing special would ever become of him." <sup>1</sup>

"The following year, he transferred to Florida Bible Institute. One day in the dining room, he sat with a young lady from York Pa in the campus dining room. The two became friends and dated. They went to various local trailer courts, where he preached and she sang. The following year, her pastor Rev Ralph Boyer, from the York Gospel Center, spoke at the Institute's baccalaureate. Rev Boyer met Graham and asked him to hold a week of meetings in York. It was his first time north of the Mason-Dixon Line." <sup>2</sup>

"We were invited for one week, and the series was extended for a second week. In my room at the YMCA, I had to think up and pray through more messages, since I had already preached all my evangelistic sermons. There was a good response to the Gospel, even though my heavy accent made it difficult for some people to understand me." Graham later wrote about York. On the way back home, the car broke down. He had no money for repairs." <sup>3</sup>

Over the following years, Graham continued to return to York to preach at the York Gospel Center owned Penn Grove Camp. People flocked by train Sunday afternoons to hear him. All was great. He even began planning a wedding to this young lady from York. However, she gently and clearly let him know that she "wanted to marry a man who had a clear focus in life and was going to amount to something. She didn't think he was going to make it. His world fell apart. He began to seek God and His will even more intensively." <sup>4</sup> (A writer's note here, the York Gospel Center was my home church, the above woman and her later family were friends with my parents. while I was a counselor at Penn Grove Camp in the 90's, I stood in the tabernacle of his BC "Before Crusade" or "Boot Camp").

For the next several years, Graham was not sure what God had for him. He got a scholarship to Wheaton College and there he met his wife to be Ruth. (She even once wrote him an "I am not sure letter.") While there, he served briefly as pastor of two churches. After getting married, he launched a radio program called "Songs in the Night", which he left after a year. At the age of 29, he became president of Northwestern Bible from which he later resigned. Graham, also, intended to become a chaplain in the Armed Forces, but he contracted mumps shortly after applying for a commission. He was then hired as the first full-time evangelist of the new Youth for Christ. <sup>5</sup>

During this time (1946), Charles' mother-in-law, as a teenager, and went to Pine Brook Camp in PA. Graham was a Youth for Christ speaker at the camp. He spoke with her, ate with her, signed her Bible and had a group picture taken. She was very impressed with his messages and personality. The next time she met Billy Graham, it was after his BC time. She was in his Crusade choir at Madison Square Garden, in 1957. It ran nightly for 16 weeks. <sup>6</sup>

Like Rev Graham, you may have been told that you will not amount to anything, or you are currently floundering between jobs. You may have lost or been hurt by someone you loved. You may have a financial or physical issue. You may be frustrated with people, with circumstances, with purpose, with life and even with God. There are many examples in the Bible where great persons went through a BC (Boot Camp) period before their purpose or commission. They include Moses, Jacob, David, Paul, the twelve disciples, and even Christ.

The secret to success and purpose is not in our own abilities, our own will, our knowledge or our strength. It is when we yield (Rom 12:1,2), seek (Matt 7:7,8), trust (Prov3:5,6), obey (Josh 1:8), and at times wait (Is 40:41). It is when we pray "Not my will but thine be done. Here am I, use me as your humble servant for your honor and glory."



Percy Crawford,  
Billy Ruth Graham,  
Cliff Barrows, &  
my mother-in-law  
(row 2 right side)  
Lenore Humphreys  
Pine Brook Camp



No one knew then how  
God would use him.

*Charles L Stambaugh*  
*Mt Wolf, PA*

*The world has yet to see what one person  
totally surrendered to Christ can do.*


<sup>1,4</sup> Page 16 [The Legacy of a Couple Ruth & Bill Graham](#) by Hanspeter Nuesch by Baker Books 2014

<sup>2</sup> [York Town Square Billy Graham](#) "I do remember him being here.." Jim McClure 1/12/08 reference York Daily Record 11/15/97

<sup>3</sup> Page 60 [Just as I Am: The Autobiography of Billy Graham](#) Harper One 7/24/2007

<sup>5</sup> Billy Graham Wikipedia [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy\\_Graham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Graham)

<sup>6</sup> "I do remember him being here.." [RetroYork](#) McClure 3/5/17 "York Woman was Billy's Old Girl Friend" [Insider](#) Argento 3/21/18

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