

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Christian Ministries To Come Together To Explore Evangelism Online

Billy Graham Center Hosts Internet Evangelism Conference in April

“Christians should use every form of media to present the message of Christ. This convocation will help believers effectively present Christ in the Internet Community.”

*Rev. Billy Graham
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association*

The statistics are startling . . .

- ✓ 1.5-million Internet Web pages are created daily
- ✓ The web doubles in size every 8 months
- ✓ Web sites have 10 seconds to capture a browsers attention before he/she clicks away
- ✓ By the year 2000, an estimated 500 million people will be on the Internet

With those statistics in mind, the question is asked, what are those people searching for? While some may be looking for cheap airline tickets or the latest sports scores, many are looking for a spiritual connection and answers to life's toughest issues. In many cases, these same people would never enter a church or pick up a Christian book, but they do feel safe exploring answers to questions of faith in the “anonymous and non-threatening” environment of the Internet.

More and more Christians are discovering and using the potential of the Internet, not just to “get the word out” about their organization, but also as an interactive medium for evangelism. Internet web sites such as *Who is Jesus, Hollywood Jesus, Peggy's Place and Hutchcraft.com* are impacting the Internet with a relevant presentation of the Gospel.

Motivating and equipping Christian ministries and individual Christians to share their faith on the Internet – on web sites, in chatrooms and by email - is the focus of an *Internet Evangelism Conference* in April in Chicago. Hundreds of Christian leaders, lay people, “techies” and others will gather April 18-20 to learn more about Internet Evangelism and look toward the future of the Internet for spreading the Gospel.

Internet Evangelism Conference participants will hear from such well-known Christian leaders as Dr. Buster Soaries (Senior Pastor of *First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens*, Somerset, NJ), Dr. Joseph Stowell (President of *Moody Bible Institute*) and Dr. Ron Hutchcraft (Author, speaker – *Ron Hutchcraft Ministries*), and also participate in a variety of workshops including:

- ☞ **Chatrooms – Sharing Christ in Cyberspace**
- ☞ **Understanding the Culture – Impacting the Internet**
- ☞ **Linking with Other Media for Effective Internet Evangelism**
- ☞ **Internet Evangelism Follow-up – The Pitfalls, The Rewards**
- ☞ **Tools for Effective Internet Evangelism**
- ☞ **Internet Evangelism – The International Connection**
- ☞ **The Future of the Internet – Where Do We Go From Here?**
- ☞ **Y2K – Evangelism Opportunities**

Conference participants will also talk with Christian companies on the cutting edge of Internet development including *Gospel Communications Network*, *Crosswalk.com (Didax)*, *Christian Interactive Network* and more.

The *Internet Evangelism Conference*, sponsored by the *Billy Graham Center*, will be held April 18-20 at the *Wyndham Hotel* – Northwest Chicago (Itasca, Illinois). The registration fee of \$150 covers all sessions and the closing banquet on Tuesday night. Meals and lodging are additional. A special conference room rate has been arranged at the *Wyndham Hotel*.

For more information or to register online please visit our web site at www.webevangelism.org or call (630) 752-5162.

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Media Note

Interviews with Dr. Sterling Huston (North American Ministries Director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association) who is chairing the Internet Evangelism Committee and others involved with the conference are available.

Please call Naomi Frizzell at (612) 912-0001 or email nfrizzell@compuserve.com for assistance.

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