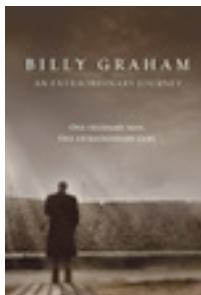


FILM



Extraordinary Journey



Billy Graham: An Extraordinary Journey (2018)

Starring: **Billy Graham, Morrow Graham, Franklin Graham**

Written by: **Daniel Camenisch, Vonda Harrell**

Directed by: **Daniel Camenisch, Vonda Harrell**

Many readers would have attended the 60th anniversary gatherings held earlier this year that were arranged by the Billy Graham Association (BGA) in recognition of the impact and long-term ministry of Billy Graham. Soon after Billy Graham's death (February 21, 2018), the BGA released a documentary to provide an 'official' film of Billy Graham's ministry calling. The documentary is now available via streaming services.

This is a personal journey, and features Billy Graham from his early years and at different and pivotal points of his life and with members of the Graham family.

His wider connections and ability to relate to a wide variety of people is a feature. In the USA and in other

places, his regular appearances on radio, and then TV talk shows brought him into contact with many people who would never have attended a crusade. The ecumenical foundation of his crusade gatherings, and his general support for integration are prominent in themes, but of course the central focus is on his calling to preach the gospel.

There has been some debate over the style of the documentary and criticism that it was not a critical or academic documentary, though I think this misses the point as that was not its purpose. It is a relatively short overview (about an hour) and serves the purpose of being a visual eulogy for the countless millions of people that Billy Graham connected with, and clearly could attend the actual funeral. People are invited into the life of Billy Graham and towards the end of the documentary the actual funeral service is featured. I found the documentary to be quite illuminating and humble in its approach, with a focus on giving thanks to God for the life of one person who was called to tell others in this very public way about his lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

(Another interesting film, though not BGA produced is *Billy: the early years* (2008) - this was reviewed in an early ACCatalyst: March 2009.)

I am not ashamed of the Gospel

It is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believe.

Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church in Australia

2019 ACC National Conference & Annual General Meeting

1.30 pm Monday 23 September – 12.30 pm Wednesday 25 September

Alexandra Park Conference Centre | Alexandra Headland, Sunshine Coast
Registration available from April 2019 (See ACC website)