

BILLY GRAHAM

December 12, 1972

Dear Dr. McGavran:

During the last year we have held crusades in Charlotte, North Carolina; Birmingham, Alabama; and Cleveland, Ohio. We have just recently held meetings in Nagaland, North India. Three of these crusades have been televised across America. God richly blessed and our hearts were again encouraged. Literally thousands have come to Christ through these crusades and the telecasts.

As I read the Bible along with the newspaper, I am daily more convinced that "The coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8). The Holy Spirit has increasingly impressed me that what is done for Christ must be done now. At this moment I am preparing for the most strenuous year of my entire ministry.

Since the Berlin Congress on Evangelism in 1966, many Christian leaders - pastors, evangelists and missionaries - have urged that there be another World Congress on Evangelism. As you know, following Berlin major congresses were held in Singapore, Bogota, Minneapolis, Ottawa, Amsterdam, and in other areas.

After much prayer and initial hesitation I felt led to seek the counsel of a number of men representing five continents to consider this prayerfully. We met for several days of prayer and discussion. We believe God led us to the unanimous decision that we should convene an International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland in July, 1974. The purpose of the Congress is clear: to press for the evangelization of the world in our generation. This will require the total mobilization of all our resources under the dynamic of the Holy Spirit.

I am therefore turning to you for your counsel and help. Such a Congress should not be planned by any one church body, organization or individual. Our Association would stand behind the effort, especially with personnel and financial support.

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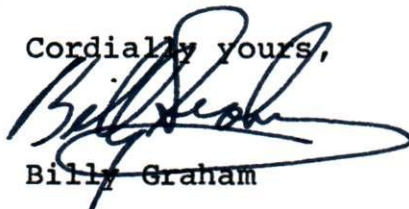
On behalf of myself and those who conferred with me, I have been asked to invite you to be a member of a world-wide convening committee who will issue the call to the Congress. We have asked the Rt. Rev. A. Jack Dain, Assistant Bishop of Sydney, Australia, to act as the Executive Chairman of such a Congress, and he has agreed. A copy of the proposed statement of the call is enclosed for your approval. If you have changes in wording or emphasis which you would suggest, please feel free to include them in your response.

If you agree to serve on this committee, please let me have your answer to this letter at the earliest possible moment.

In the meantime, be assured of our prayers on your behalf - and I would deeply appreciate your prayers to the end that we will be enabled to meet the opportunities which are ahead of us.

With warmest Christian greetings, I am

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Billy Graham", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Billy Graham

The Rev. Dr. Donald A. McGavran
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