

# JERSEY SHORE WILL GRAHAM CELEBRATION

## JERSEY SHORE WILL GRAHAM CELEBRATION FACT SHEET

**CELEBRATION DATES:** May 20-22; Friday through Sunday

**LOCATION:** The Great Auditorium, Ocean Grove, New Jersey

**TIME:** 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
3 p.m. Sunday

**FOR KIDS:** 10 a.m. Saturday – KidzFest with *God Rocks!*

### SEATING/ADMISSION:

All seats are free. Tickets are not required. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be special seating for persons with disabilities and interpretation for the deaf and hard of hearing. There will also be translation for Spanish-speaking audiences on Friday, May 20, and Sunday, May 22.

### ORGANIZATION:

The *Jersey Shore Will Graham Celebration* is a not-for-profit corporation, operating under the direction of a Celebration General Committee led by Chairman Dr. John M. Taylor.

More than 265 churches representing 25 denominations are working together to host the Celebration.

### MUSICAL GUESTS:

**Friday, May 20**  
Matthew West

**Saturday, May 21**  
Newsboys  
FLAME  
Matthew West

**Sunday, May 22**  
Matthew West  
Chasen

### KIDZFEST:

KidzFest is a special event tailored specifically for children. Beginning Saturday, May 21, at 8:30 a.m., children will enjoy pre-festival fun with face painting, clowns, puppets, games and a bounce house. At 10 a.m. the KidzFest program will take place, featuring an entertaining, energizing and inspiring message from *God Rocks!*

### PRESS OPERATION:

Media credentialing will take place at The Pavilion, where press kits and other materials will also be available. Please bring your outlet-assigned press credential, a business card listing your outlet, or some other form of media-based identification to use for verification in credentialing. Seating for media is reserved in Row F of Section Q in the Great Auditorium. A distribution amplifier (mult-box) and wireless Internet service will be provided for working press.

For updates on Celebration statistics and information, and to request interviews with Will Graham or other Celebration leadership, contact Erik Ogren at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association – (704) 577-2109 or [eogren@bgea.org](mailto:eogren@bgea.org).

### LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

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**REV. WILL GRAHAM:**

William Franklin Graham IV (Will) is the third generation of Grahams to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ under the banner of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA). Will is the grandson of Billy Graham and the oldest son of Franklin Graham. Since beginning his evangelistic ministry with youth-oriented, one-day events in Canada, Will has spoken to audiences across North America, Australia, India and other parts of Asia and South America.

Will's first crusade-style event – which he calls Celebrations – took place in 2006 in Leduc, Canada. His first Celebration on U.S. soil came later that year in Gastonia, N.C. Since then, he has also held multi-day evangelistic outreaches in several states and provinces.

Thus far in 2011, Will has preached in the Bicol region of the Philippines and in several parts of India. He has also traveled to Australia to speak in churches and hold meetings with Christian leaders, and has spoken extensively throughout the United States and Canada.

Will graduated from Liberty University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Religion and in 2001 graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. Along with his evangelistic ministry, Will serves as assistant director of the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove in Asheville, N.C.

**PREVIOUS AREA MINISTRY:**

Billy Graham was 36 years old when, as a young evangelist, he took the stage of the Great Auditorium and spoke on Sept. 4, 1955. Now, more than 55 years later, his grandson will be 36 when he preaches at the same venue for the Jersey Shore Will Graham Celebration.

Billy Graham's only official multi-day Crusade in New Jersey took place in East Rutherford on Sept. 3-7, 1991. That event saw 106,100 in attendance, and more than 8,900 respond to the invitation. The event in New Jersey was part of a greater focus on the New York/New Jersey area that also included events in Buffalo and Rochester (1988), Syracuse (1989), Albany and Long Island (1990), and Central Park (1991).

The final multi-day Crusade of Billy Graham's decades of evangelistic ministry took place at Flushing Meadows in Queens in 2005.

**GRAHAM FAMILY MINISTRY:**

Billy Graham has preached the Gospel to more people in live audiences than anyone else in history – nearly 215 million people in more than 185 countries and territories – through various meetings, including Mission World and Global Mission. Hundreds of millions more have been reached through television, video, film, and webcasts.

Mr. Graham founded the BGEA in 1950. Originally based in Minneapolis, Minn., the organization relocated to Charlotte, N.C. in 2003. In June 2007, the 40,000-square-foot Billy Graham Library, positioned adjacent to the headquarters, was opened to the public.

Franklin Graham is the oldest son of Billy Graham and the president and CEO of BGEA. Since 1989, he has preached to more than four million people in cities all over the world. His 2011 Festival schedule includes events in Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Wis., and Denver, Colo. Internationally, Franklin has held events in Liberia and Haiti this year.