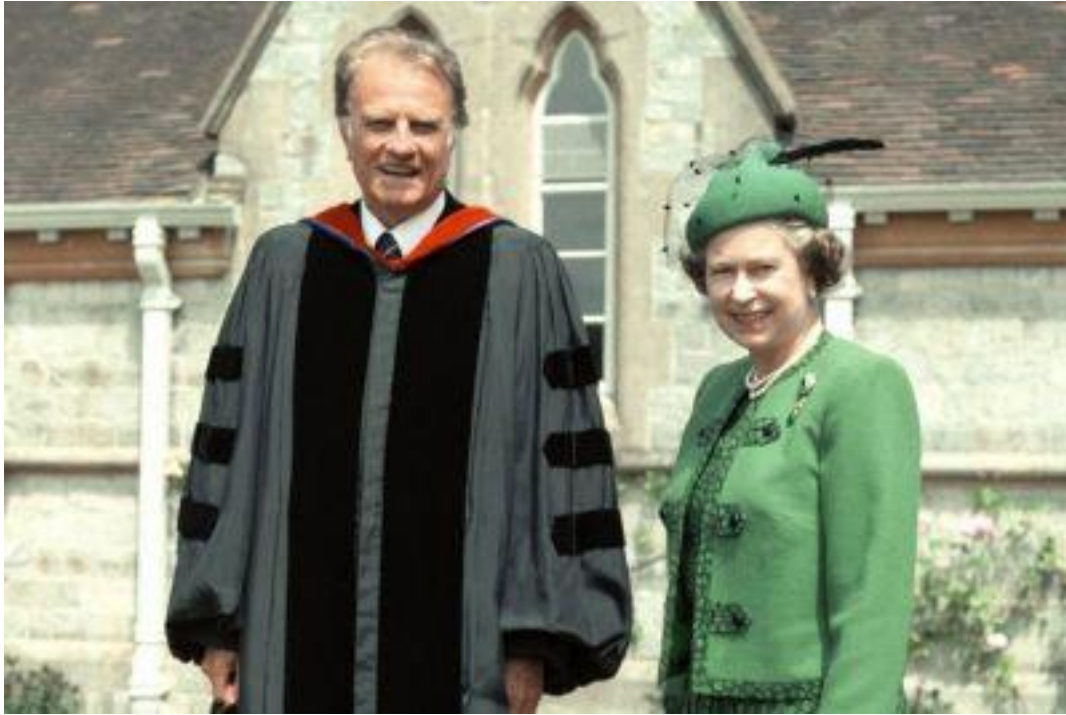


Franklin Graham



Billy Graham with Queen Elizabeth II in 1989. | Courtesy of BGEA

The Rev. Franklin Graham, head of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, emailed a statement shared with *The Christian Post* calling the queen “a symbol of stability and steadfastness for the United Kingdom for 70 years.”

Graham said he appreciated “her example of leadership and her life of integrity,” while noting her friendship with his father, the late Rev. Billy Graham.

“My father had the privilege of meeting with the Queen more than a dozen times, and she was a gracious host, inviting my parents to visit Buckingham Palace on several occasions,” Graham said.

“My father said he found Queen Elizabeth ‘to be a woman of rare modesty and character,’ and made a pledge to pray for her and her family every day.”

Graham concluded by noting that Elizabeth II “was a friend to my father, but more importantly, she was a true friend of the Christian faith. She will be profoundly missed.”