

# Marilyn Hickey Celebrates 80th Birthday

✘ Marilyn Hickey has turned 80—and she’s looking for a new beginning.

Hickey is the founder of Marilyn Hickey Ministries. In 1976, God gave her a verse of Scripture that defined her mission: “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9, ESV). God called her to “cover the earth with is Word” and that’s just what she’s been faithfully doing for the past 35 years.

“I feel like in my 80th year my best years are ahead. And I am not retiring ... What would I do? I don’t play golf, I don’t like television, shopping is not that big a deal,” Hickey said on [her daily broadcast](#). “I’m telling you, people, souls, healings, miracles, nations are a big deal ... In my 70s I had my biggest meetings, so I am saying, what’s going to happen at 80? We have so many people to reach, so much to do. God is so good to me. I just want to reach people with His Word. And again, living the Word will unlock the miraculous all around the world.”

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## New Ruth Bell Graham Exhibit

# Opens

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It would have to do.

She was at Earls Court Arena in London, site of the 1966 Billy Graham Crusade, and someone had passed her a note from a girl named Wendy, who was asking for her help.

Ruth had first found Wendy, a heavy drug user, nearly unconscious by the stadium entrance and wanted to help.

Over the previous nights, Ruth had been talking to Wendy about committing her life to Christ, but Wendy was hesitant to make that decision. Crusade staff members decided to take Wendy home, but before they did, Ruth wanted to write her a message.

With only a Kleenex package to write on, she took out the cardboard backing and quickly wrote three lines of encouragement:

*"God loves me.*

*Jesus died for me.*

*No matter what I've done, if I confess to Him, He will forgive me."*

Ruth then tucked the note into Wendy's pocket just before she left.

A year later, Ruth met Wendy again in London and she told Ruth how that impromptu cardboard note had been her lifeline to God.

Wendy corresponded with Ruth and this memorabilia is just part of the display at the Billy Graham Library's newest exhibit which opens July 1 and runs through Aug. 31.

The exhibit's title: "Ruth Bell Graham: The Heart of a Missionary."

Focusing on a side of Ruth that many may not know about, this exhibit displays her deep desire to share the love of Christ with the world, one person at a time.

"Ruth always dreamed that she would be a missionary to Tibet," said Diane Wise, promotions manager for The Billy Graham Library. "Those plans were transformed when she met Billy Graham and realized God had a different call on her life.

"Her heart for serving others never faded though and the many lives she touched over the years are a testimony to that fact."

Born in China to missionary parents, Ruth developed a strong heart for the Chinese people and an even greater love for the Lord, which was evident as she stood beside America's most well-known evangelist for more than 60 years.

"Our team has spent hours looking through Ruth's writings, photos and memorabilia to compile this exhibit," said Debra Cordial, director of the library. "While we have a room in our Journey of Faith dedicated to Ruth, this new exhibit offers a great opportunity for visitors to see a different side of her remarkable life."

One example of Ruth's passion for all people was Velma Barfield, a convicted murderer who lived on death row for six years.

Velma accepted Christ shortly after her arrest and Ruth started writing her in prison and talking to her by phone. On display you'll see a poem that Ruth dedicated to Velma in her book "Clouds Are The Dust of His Feet."

Ruth's love for others and passion to share Christ can be seen by visitors through handwritten personal journal entries,

including one from a small book she jotted notes in during a London visit that included this brief itinerary:

*Little boy with cancer* (June 28)

*Lunch at Buckingham Palace* (June 29)

Other letters, newspaper clippings, awards and firsthand accounts of how she touched the lives of others can be found in the glass display cases, along with this hand-written poem she wrote on a card given to Billy in 1978:

“A dream fulfilled ...  
To walk with you  
Through all these years,  
Through every kind of weather,  
And walk into  
The setting sun  
Still loving and ... together.”

“The Heart of a Missionary” also details Ruth’s impact on building The Billy Graham Training Center (The Cove) near Asheville, which was built more than 20 years ago.

Ruth had prayed The Cove would be a place for retreat, rest, relaxation and renewal. She took a personal interest in many of the construction details, including the use of stone from that property for the outside of the Chatlos Memorial Chapel and the height of the steeple.

*Used with permission of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.*

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# Chinese Authorities Expel Shouwang Church Member from Beijing

Chinese authorities detained a member of one of Beijing's largest unregistered churches on Monday and sent him to his hometown in Shandong Province, sources said.

Three officers from Beijing's Dongsheng police station detained the Shouwang church member at about 5 p.m. while he was at a market to get a mobile phone fixed, they said. They handed him over to a Shandong office based in the capital, which sent him to his hometown that evening. He was the second member of the church to be expelled from the city since authorities allegedly compelled the owners of the church's rented facility to stop leasing to the congregation in April, forcing them to meet outdoors the past three months.

The same Dongsheng police station in Beijing's northwest Haidian district sent the first Shouwang member to be expelled from Beijing to his hometown in Hubei Province on May 8, sources said.

After Monday's expulsion, the Shouwang member was forbidden to use his mobile phone, but at noon yesterday he was sent to his parents' home and was able to send a text message to church members. He said his identity card was confiscated, and he was warned not to return to Beijing before July 1, the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. Authorities told local village officials to monitor him.

In the church's weekly statement issued yesterday, Shouwang Church leaders said they had filed a protest against the expulsion.

"The forced expatriation by Dongsheng Police Station and

Haidian Public Security Bureau has constituted a complete contempt for and a flagrant violation of the law, in effect depriving a citizen of any guarantee of the most basic of foundational existential rights," the statement read.

The first expulsion of a Shouwang member came after the church held a fifth consecutive Sunday of outdoor worship. At least 15 people were taken to 10 police stations across Beijing on May 8. All were released within 24 hours, except one who was jailed at Dongsheng police station for 48 hours and then turned over to the Wuhan municipal governmental office in Beijing. Wuhan is the capital of Hubei Province, where the household of the detained Shouwang member was registered.

After previous detentions, he had already been forced to quit his job as an instructor at an international school for children under three years old. As he had lived at the school office, he also lost his lodging.

The church member on May 10 told a contact by phone that he had been sent to Wuhan's Beijing office from the police station earlier that day. Police ordered the office to buy a train ticket for his return to Hubei, he said. Police confiscated his identity card, later telling him that they could not find it. They told him to go to Hubei to apply for a new one.

The detained Christian later told another church member by phone that he wanted to see his parents and his maternal grandmother, and that he also wanted to rest after being detained four times for having attended five Sunday outdoor worship services.

With a police officer from the Wuhan Public Security Bureau based in Beijing's Wuhan office, he took a train to Hubei's provincial capital on the evening of May 11. More than 20 Shouwang congregants went to the Beijing West Railway Station to see him off, praying hand-in-hand and singing a hymn in the

waiting area of the station.

The Shouwang member and the police officer arrived in Wuhan the next morning, then went to his hometown in Hubei. After having lunch, the police officer returned to Wuhan. On May 16, two local police officers came to the church member's home asking for basic information on his family. He returned to Beijing in mid-June and has continued to attend outdoor worship, being detained every Sunday since.

Hundreds of Shouwang parishioners have been detained or confined to their homes on Sundays as well as weekdays since April 10. Some church members have lost their jobs or rented homes, or both. They are mostly young professionals working at companies or universities.

Before April 10, the Shouwang congregation had gathered in a conference hall of the Old Story Club in the northern area of Beijing for more than a year. But according to Shouwang Church leaders, the owner of the rented venue was under mounting pressure from the government.

In March, Shouwang planned to rent a conference hall of a hotel in the northwest of the city, but the church said some government agencies again interfered and prevented it from renting the new premises.

Shouwang Church first started as a family Bible study group in 1993. By 2005, Shouwang, which means "keeping watch," had more than 10 fellowships. At that time, the church decided to apply to register with the government. But in 2006, authorities rejected Shouwang's application, asking it to join the official Three-Self Patriotic Movement church.

In late 2009, Shouwang paid about 27 million yuan (about \$4 million) for the second floor of the Daheng Science and Technology Tower in northwest Beijing's Zhongguancun area, known as "China's Silicon Valley." Funding came from the Shouwang congregation and other contributors for the purchase

of a permanent worship place. Authorities once again interfered, according to church leaders, and the property developer refused to hand the key over to the church.

Shouwang Church had more than 1,000 worshippers each Sunday before the outdoor worship began in April. It still has dozens of family groups and fellowships.


In a related development, China Aid Association reported that two women from another Beijing house church, Shuangshu Church, were planning to join Shouwang's outdoor worship service on Sunday, but police prevented them from leaving their home. Their landlord later came to pressure them to move out, according to CAA.

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## **Shouwang Church Member Faces Job Dismissal**

 In a disturbing new development in the 12-week long Shouwang Church clash with Chinese authorities, a church member who is employed by U.S.-based Christian humanitarian group World Vision is facing dismissal for her participation in Shouwang's outdoor worship

attempts, ChinaAid reports.

In the 12 weeks since Shouwang Church lost its meeting site and decided

to hold its Sunday worship services outdoors, Chinese authorities have

tried many different ways to try to get the church members to desist.

These have included police detention, house arrest, eviction, loss of

jobs, and being escorted out of Beijing and returned to one's hometown.

The World Vision action was just one of at least four new cases in the

past week of persecution against a Shouwang Church member.

Police handed over detained Shouwang Church member Chuan Liang to

the Shandong Provincial Government, which has escorted him from Beijing

to his hometown in coastal Shandong province.

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## **God's Word Reigns Despite Religious Persecution**

✘ When our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, they considered religious freedom one of Americans' most fundamental rights.

Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, also wrote the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. He considered these two of his most important accomplishments,

along with founding the University of Virginia, and left instructions for them to be inscribed on his tombstone.

Today, our commitment to religious freedom has gone global, and it has become part of the fabric of our diplomacy. In 1998, Congress passed the International Religious Freedom Act, and now the State Department issues an annual report on religious freedom.

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## **Eddie Long Accuser Arrested on Dope Dealing, Gun Charges**

✘ One of the four men who accused Bishop Eddie Long of sexual misconduct was arrested this week in Florida on suspicion of being a drug dealer.

Jamal Parris, 24, was driving a white 2011 BMW in Miami Beach Tuesday evening, when a Florida Highway Patrol officer noticed that it had no tags.

Sgt. Seth Dubinsky stopped the car. When he approached it, he smelled marijuana, he told *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on Thursday.

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# { Day 182 }

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. **–Psalm 25:4-5**

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## **Be God's Standard Bearer**

Is this not the fast that I have chosen?-.-.-.That thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? **–Isaiah 58:6, 7**