

Billy Graham Recovering in Mission Hospital

Billy Graham remains in good spirits today after a restful night at Mission Hospital.

Graham was encouraged this morning by a visit from his pastor, Dr. Don Wilton, who shared a passage from the book of Ephesians: "For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers" (Eph. 1:15-16).

"Given the outpouring of love and well wishes Mr. Graham has received from people around the world," said Graham spokesperson A. Larry Ross, "the verse seemed to have special meaning to him."

Graham heard about the prayers and get well wishes from his daughter, Gigi, who visited yesterday evening, said Ross. The two spent time reading the Bible and praying together. Then, as they turned channels to find a news broadcast, they happened to see a Billy Graham Classic Special on TBN, televising Mr. Graham's 1973 Crusade in St. Louis.

"It was a blessing to Mr. Graham to realize his preaching still reaches around the world," said Ross, "and even into hospital rooms like his own."

Graham was hospitalized for evaluation and treatment of his lungs. Upon admittance, he was alert, smiling and waving at hospital staff.

Graham was previously hospitalized for successful treatment of pneumonia in May. He resumed his ongoing program of physical therapy and normal activity shortly after release, according to his staff. This included finalizing his most recent

book, *Nearing Home*, published in October, and beginning work on a new project reaffirming the evangelistic message he has preached for more than 60 years.

While no date has been set for discharge, Graham is looking forward to returning home to spend the upcoming Christmas holiday with his family.

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