

# GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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April-June 2018

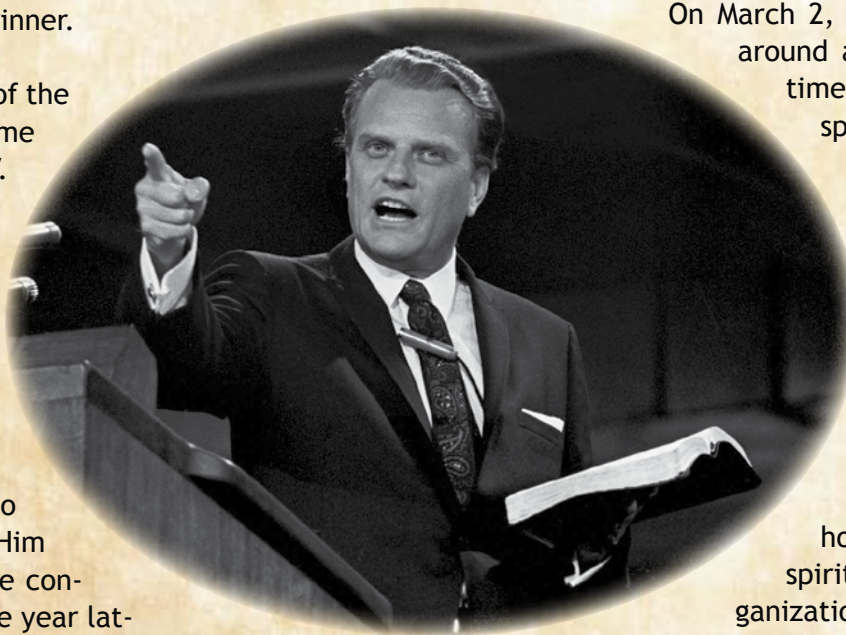
## Billy Graham *Life & Legacy* 1918-2018



It's still a mystery how Sarah & I (among 4,000 evangelists from around the world) were invited to attend *Amsterdam 83* in July 1983. 75% of the evangelists were from 3rd world countries. To my knowledge, the only evangelists we personally knew were George Brunk and Myron Augsburger. It was our first introduction to Ravi Zacharias, Bill Bright, Nancy Leigh DeMoss, E. V. Hill, and of course, Billy Graham and his team. We came to know Reverend Graham, not only as an evangelist to crowds of thousands, but also for joining all of us in street evangelism campaigns around the city of Amsterdam, Holland. He donned a baseball cap which disguised him as a "common" soul winner.

**AMSTERDAM '83**  
*A Time of Surrender*

The defining moment of the 10-day conference came during Reverend E. V. Hill's closing message, "**Will you surrender**"... and go wherever God leads you? The Holy Spirit squeezed our hearts until liquid filled our eyes. Sarah and I said yes to God's calling to abandon our lives to Him and trust Him with the consequences. Exactly one year later, God gave birth to Gospel Express Ministries and the mystery continues.



*"The Bible says..."*

In the mid 90's during one of the Billy Graham School's of Evangelism, Sarah and I had the privilege of meeting Billy and gave him a brief testimony concerning *Amsterdam '83* and the birth of Gospel Express. It was a special moment at these conferences or crusades when Cliff Barrows, Bev Shea, and Billy Graham teamed up for an impromptu trio selection.



*Cliff, Billy & Bev*

On March 2, 2018, office staff gathered around as we watched and yes, at times wept during the recent spirit-filled memorial service.

The opportunities God gave Billy to preach to many millions and counsel and influence presidents and world leaders was only possible by the grace and mercy of Almighty God. The greatest attribute and source of his effectiveness was God's holy anointing that produced spirit-filled preaching. The organizations long standing legacy of integrity can be traced to a resolution drawn up in 1948 during evangelistic meetings in Modesto, CA. It became known as the Modesto Manifesto. Billy along with George Beverly Shae, Cliff Barrows, and

*Continued on page 2*



# Billy Graham

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Grady Wilson resolved to uphold the highest standards of Biblical morality and financial integrity. These principles were taught at *Amsterdam '83* and the Assoc. Schools of Evangelism. They not only impacted my life, but also thousands of pastors, evangelists, ministries, and parachurch organizations through the years.

Billy was an ambassador against racial injustice and segregation. He said, "There is no Scriptural basis for segregation. The ground is level at the foot of the cross." At a crusade in Chattanooga, TN in 1953, he went into the auditorium one evening ahead of the crowd and personally took down the ropes that divided the crowd by skin color. From then on Billy Graham Crusades were fully integrated. "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, *Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.*" Acts 10:34

A Gallop poll estimated that 35 million Americans heard Billy Graham preach in person. From the onset in 1947 there were 400 crusades in 53 countries, plus an additional 185 countries and territories reached via satellite meet-



*Billy & Ruth*

## Life & Legacy

ings. His daughter Ann said, "And Dad didn't use a laptop or computer!" *I like that! Yes, the office staff has been known to chuckle at my own computer avoidance.* 😊

Try to imagine the generations of ministries that can trace their roots back to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. At the same time imagine all the generations of households whose eternal destiny was forever changed. Future generations will continue to be impacted as Billy's legacy lives on through The Association, his son Franklin, other members of the Graham family, along with millions whom God touched under his preaching and through the many discipleship conferences.

I am forever grateful to the Billy Graham Association for the profound impact upon my life. Seeing his memorial service and related documentaries has rekindled the passion in my spirit to "Do the work of an evangelist" as long as God enables. We are not all evangelists, but we are all called to evangelize. "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:18

*~Nelson Coblentz*

## Executive Board Update

Our Executive Board is comprised of seven members and they serve a seven-year term. In many cases, members have already been serving in some way with Gospel Express before becoming a board member; possibly through the prison crusades or benefit auctions. Some are businessmen, some church

pastors, but all have a heart for ministry. We have been so blessed for many years to have board members that are willing to invest their time and wisdom into advancing God's Kingdom. We say a big "THANK YOU" to every member who has served, and especially to our current Board. **You are a BLESSING!**



▲ (Left to right, including term length)  
Jake Mast, Walnut Creek, OH, Treasurer, 2022 -  
Lynn Helmuth, Kalona, IA, Vice Secretary, 2020 -  
Lowell Swartzentruber, Abbeville, SC, Secretary,  
2021, Omar Stoltzfus, Narvon, PA, Chairman,  
2019 - Richard Swartzentruber, Meigs, GA, 2018  
- John Weaver, Taylorsville, NC, 2024 - Sheldon  
Graber, Shipshewana, IN, Vice Chairman, 2023

◀ A recent board/staff meeting in Sarasota, FL  
(joined by Nelson's father, Emanuel, age 92)







By Grace (Friday)



Coblenz's



Mullett's



Miller's



Penner's



Stoltzfus's



Allen Fisher Band (Sat.)

# 35<sup>th</sup> Annual PA Benefit Auction Weekend

Mel's Stables, 834 Wallace Road, New Holland, PA

## APRIL 26-28, 2018

**Thurs., April 26** 7:00 PM Cattle Auction (Call 717-222-6316 for more info)

**Fri., April 27** 4:30 PM Pig Roast & Big John's Chicken  
(Full Meal - Carry out Available \$10 each)  
6:00 PM Singspiration

**Sat., April 28** 7:00-10:00 AM "All-You-Can-Eat" Breakfast  
8:15-8:45 AM Singin' & Pickin'  
8:30 AM Candy Drop  
9:00 AM Auction Begins  
6:00 PM Singspiration

**OUR LARGEST FUNDRAISER**



Lots of **GOOD FOOD**  
Friday evening and all day Saturday!



**SALE ITEMS INCLUDE:** Indoor & outdoor furniture, handmade Africa items, prison-made items, home decor, swing sets, gazebos, sheds, trailers, clocks, construction equipment, power tools, plants, and much more.

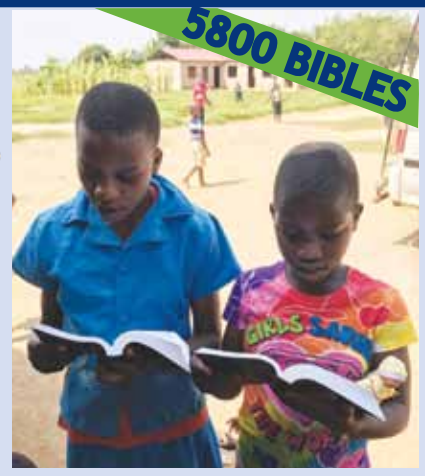


## 2018 Bible Read-A-Thon PRAISE REPORT



A huge thank you to all the children and sponsors. The hunger for the printed Word is enormous in third world countries. During the January seminar in Uganda, we gave seven Bibles each to 50 bishops/pastors and then gave one Bible each to the additional 250 attendees. You cannot imagine how desperate they were to receive their very own Bible in their language.

Over 100 children have read approximately 161,000 pages. 245 sponsors



have contributed over \$35,000 which will all be invested directly into the printed Word...PTL! The top three readers combined have raised \$9,531.

The cost for each Bible ranges from \$4-9 depending on the language. This Read-A-Thon should enable us to purchase approximately 5800 Bibles! Please pray with us for wisdom as we give Bibles to church leaders, villagers, refugees, and prisoners throughout the continent of Africa.

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

We are anticipating the completion of the new multi-purpose building in June. God has been faithful through Phase 1 (parking lot expansion), Phase 2 (office addition), and now Phase 3. We are so grateful to all who have contributed to the new building, both labor-wise and financially.

If anyone is still able to help out with the final needs on the building, please contact Mervin Wengerd at 828-817-1657.

- Deck Installation
- Painting
- Concrete/Landscaping





# South Carolina Prison Crusade

February 4-8

We are very grateful for the open doors God has granted us to minister behind the fences in SC!

These photos and testimonies from our ministry partners (volunteers) are living proof of the **Transforming Power of the GOSPEL...** still at work today!



**"THANK YOU" TO ALL OUR SINGING TEAMS, EVANGELISTS AND VOLUNTEERS**



**"THANK YOU" TO OUR PRISON TEAM LEADERS AND LEAD CHAPLAIN MIKE BROWN (on right)**



Going into lockup was an amazing experience. It was a blessing to able to talk to and pray with the prisoners. I went to the prison crusade to encourage others, but I left encouraged.

*~Anonymous*

There's so much pain (in prison) and sometimes my heart just breaks. I was leading a lady to the Lord that came to the altar. She was sincere and broken but didn't know how to pray and was scared. I lead her through a prayer and it was amazing, she said "The fear is gone!"

*~Lena*



We experienced the power of prayer. It amazed me when we stopped and prayed after scheduled activities were disrupted, how God moved and opened doors for the activities to continue.

*~Dale*

On the final night of the crusade, I had the opportunity to share with an inmate at the altar. With a hurting heart he shared that he was getting out in 20 days, but now his wife has served him divorce papers. I shared that God is faithful and has good plans for us. Please pray for this man that he may be able to find God as his Rock in these troubling times. *~Anonymous*

I will never forget watching the inmate choir sing for us at the prison. The sheer joy on their faces as they sang and praised the One who had saved and redeemed them made tears run down my face. Truly, if the Son makes someone free, he is free indeed!

*~Anonymous*

What a joy to hear the testimony of an inmate who had only two days earlier come to know the Lord. It was such a blessing to see joy and boldness of the Lord as he stood before his fellow inmates professing his new life he found in Jesus Christ. *~Alan*



In the “From Bondage to Freedom Seminar” we discuss how **broken relationships** and **rejection** impact us in our lives and the **emotional wounds** we experience from it. Many times we respond in anger and bitterness which then results in people around us getting hurt. The saying, “hurting people hurt people” is so very true and we see this happening not only behind the fences in prisons, but also in our communities and churches. **Forgiveness** is the spiritual ointment that God uses to bring healing to the wounds and pain of broken relationships and rejection in our lives.



*When we choose to go God's way and forgive, we reap the benefits of joy in our hearts and peace in our lives.*



One inmate, in response to the seminar, called his father and they talked for quite a while, something he had not done for many years. Another inmate stated he was struggling with his father committing suicide when he was a teenager. He felt like he needed his father to be there for him but he is gone. Why did he do it? Why didn't he stick around for me? Did he not love me? How do you deal with those feelings of rejection and abandonment? Only God can bring healing as we release it at the foot of the cross... and that's what this man did. He left the seminar with a smile on his face (PTL)!

*~Mervin Wengerd* (Prison Ministry Director)

## Bible Course Ministry

*“So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” Isa. 55:11*

The Bible study correspondence courses reach inmates from coast to coast. I have the privilege of reading inmate letters from across the country whose lives have been changed by the study of God's word. It inspires me to know that behind every name and DOC number there is a living soul Jesus died for.

Working behind the scenes is our network of Bible study test graders, without which this program could not function. For many inmates this is the only contact they have with the “free world.”

A big thank you from Gospel Express to all our graders! Only eternity will reveal the fruit from your unselfish, un-applauded ministry. God bless you for your labor of love.

**As the Bible course ministry continues to grow we are needing more graders. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry you can contact us at [biblecourse@gospelexpressionline.org](mailto:biblecourse@gospelexpressionline.org) or 828-859-7003.**

*~Melvin Yoder* (Discipleship Materials Director)

## Grader Testimonies

Wanting a better life than what prison offered them, both Jimmie and Kenny decided to study a Gospel Express Bible course. After I corrected their tests, I mailed them a note of encouragement along with the graded test sheet, a tract, and a certificate of completion. Through this note these men got our church address and asked if I would be a pen pal. Now more than 25 years and many letters later, they call me their “spiritual mother”, sending Mother's Day, wedding anniversary, and other holiday cards. After 29 years of grading tests (almost 30,000), I still consider this a ministry that I can do at home. **Who can tell what harvest will be produced by a small seed of truth, encouragement, and time invested in someone's life!**



*~Marian Harnly*



Grading these Bible lessons is a growing experience for me. Some challenges include deciphering handwriting and discerning answers, but when I get notes from inmates it's like receiving a birthday gift! What's done for Christ is what counts!

*~Lois Knepp*



# Kenya Mission 2018

Village Crusade, Church Services, Marriage Retreat, Prison Services, Pastors Conference

The month of January found our family in different parts of the world. Eugene in India, Kyle in Thailand, and Ruth Ann & I in Kenya while Derek, Deborah, & Grace kept things going on the home front. It was a great blessing to all to come back together just in time for the South Carolina Prison Crusade. Kyle walked into the prison chapel, returning from Thailand, about 15 minutes before our first service started.

Ruth Ann & I were so blessed with how many doors God opened during our time in Kenya. No matter what setting or culture, the message of Jesus Christ gives hope and life to those who will receive the message! Our desire is that all would continue in the Word. *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."* John 8:31b & 32. ~ Dave Miller

**PASTORS CONFERENCE** - There were 16 bishops and 258 pastors attending the Pastor Conference. They were touched by the teachings and were grateful for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Some testified of physical healing. One pastor who walked 30 kilometers (18 miles) said we need more meetings like this. ~ Attendees



**PRISON SERVICES** - Gospel Express joined us to visit men and women in Thika Prison. We had over 100 ladies and some had little babies. The team shared testimonies, gave gifts, and prayed with those who had issues. The photos show how happy the women were to receive this.



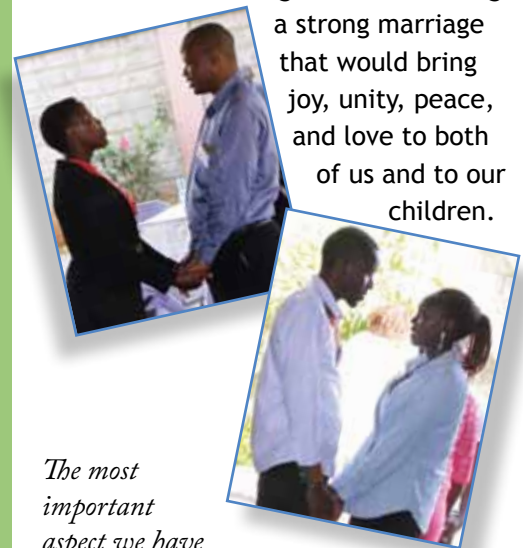
In the men's prison we shared the Word of God and 19 souls came to know the Lord. The team had brought enough bar soap and tissue paper for all the inmates. The team also ministered in singing.

*I thank God. Your visit shows the inmates that they are valued and it helps a lot in reintegration and rehabilitation of offenders. I thank Dave and Ruth Ann Miller for making sure we had enough gifts. Reaching out in our prisons is very hard, because you must take them provisions such as toothpaste, bar soap, face towels, lotion, and sanitary towels for women.*

~Big Dan Kariuki



**MARRIAGE RETREAT** - This was life transforming, especially having had our first child nine months ago. We never imagined that we needed to know so much about our marriage relationship, not only as a couple, but also as parents. Through this seminar, we understand the enormous responsibilities that each of us has to each other and to our children along with establishing



a strong marriage that would bring joy, unity, peace, and love to both of us and to our children.

*The most important aspect we have developed after learning it is the act of openly speaking words of blessings to each other every morning. This calls for discipline and dedication. We are committed to do this and are experiencing the power of this prayer. The facilitators offered practical examples during the workshop. God bless the organizers and we are looking forward to more sessions like this.*

~Mr & Mrs Mitungu William



INTERNATIONAL REFLECTIONS FROM

# UGANDA

Don't believe the lie "I have nothing significant to offer."

How in the world will we keep over 100 enthusiastic children's attention for a whole day, teach them, and play no games?! That's what we were asked to do one day. Well, God gave me a picture of the hunger that JESUS must have felt as he ministered 'truth' to the people and brought healing to their body and soul. *I have felt the need to repent of the lie within me that I have nothing significant to offer.* This trip to Uganda has been such a blessing. I am starting to find a soft place in my heart that I had closed down due to broken dreams, wounds, and rejection.

~John, OH



story time. That is, until they figured out that Zacchaeus and the Ugandan word for monkey sound the same. Now Jesus is going to monkey's house for a visit! After the first day, one of the men said, "They plum wore us out, we even tried to hide from them to get some rest!" I can assure you, however, these children will not forget the Muzunga (white men) who loved on them, gave them toys/candy, and blessed them.

~Nelson Coblentz



These children will not forget the "Muzunga"

The request to entertain/teach children was made so that Brother Lester Miller and I could teach the seminars to the adults. Jonathan & Conrad Gehman, Ferman Miller, and John Helmuth did a superb job shifting from soccer and games to Bible



"Some of us have carried this pain for years, but heaven came down."

Through the seminar, many of us had spiritual breakthroughs in our lives and ministries. It was like heaven came down! A great thing was achieved in this community by training us and giving us Bibles, blankets, mosquito nets, medicine, training books, and more. We are believing God to give us the grace to be completely healed from our emotional wounds and pain. Some of us have carried this pain for years.

~Bishops/Pastors of Bukasa Leaders Seminar



# NIGERIA

Chaplain Nsibiet issued a plea, "Please we need help! Some prison and village conditions are very serious!" Compassion minded donors enabled us to provide 150 mattresses and blankets to several prisons as well as the supplies to fumigate them. Toiletries, soap, clothing, and milk were given to mothers with babies in the prison. Poverty-stricken villagers were given relief assistance through food parcels of rice, beans, and tomatoes. Raphael Boma said, "There was no food in the house for my children, but to my surprise, God provided for us. May God bless those who provided this for us." Approximately 90 prisoners and villagers received Jesus Christ as the Word was proclaimed during these relief efforts. "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." Proverbs 21:13



New mattresses to the rescue



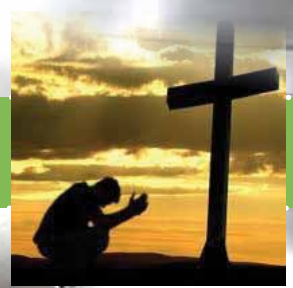


# Community Tent Meetings

August 12 thru 26, 2018

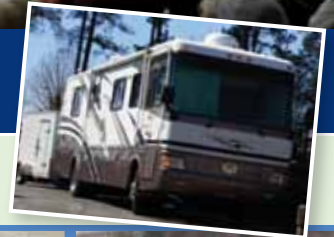
New Holland, PA (Corner of Nolt & Shirk Road)

*Wilt thou not revive us again that thy people may rejoice in thee? Ps.85:6*



## Team Schedules

\*Visit our website or call the office 828-859-7003 to confirm dates before traveling long distances



Coblentz's



Miller's



Mullett's



Wengerd's



Penner's



Stoltzfus's

### NELSON & SARAH COBLENTZ

Apr 10-18 ..... Uganda, Africa (Nelson)  
Apr 22 ..... Honey Brook Community Church - Honey Brook, PA (AM)  
Apr 26-28 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
Apr 29 ..... Church of Cross Keys - Intercourse, PA (AM)  
May 7-10 ..... Annual Scheduling/Staff Meetings - NC  
May 11-13 ..... GEET Camping Weekend - Table Rock Park, SC  
June 7-8 ..... Tent Meetings - Arthur, IL  
June 23-24 ..... Gospel Messengers' Reunion Singing - Cody, WY

### MILLER FAMILY

Apr 15-17 ..... Abundant Life - New Holland, PA (Revivals)  
Apr 19-22 ..... Light of Hope Prison Crusade - PA  
Apr 26-28 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
Apr 29-May 3 ..... Life Fellowship - Lancaster, PA (Revivals)  
May 7-10 ..... Annual Scheduling/Staff Meetings - NC  
May 11-13 ..... GEET Camping Weekend - Table Rock Park, SC  
May 21-23 ..... Instrumental Recording - NC  
June 15-17 ..... Tent Meetings - Arthur, IL  
July 1-6 ..... Youth Fellowship Camp - Goshen, IN (Dave, boys & Grace)  
July 4-7 ..... Girls Passion Camp - Darlington, MD (Ruth Ann & Deborah)

### MULLETT FAMILY

Apr 18 ..... Bittinger Menn. Church - Bittinger, MD (w/Amos & Margaret Raber)  
Apr 19 ..... New Guilford Brethren in Christ - Chambersburg, PA (w/Rabers)  
**Special Children's DVD Tour with Damian Smucker & Johnson Bently Band**  
Apr 20 ..... Central Menn. Church - Dover, DE  
Apr 21 ..... Lost Creek Menn. Church - Mifflintown, PA  
Apr 22 ..... Hammer Creek Menn. Church - Lititz, PA  
Apr 26-28 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
May 7-10 ..... Annual Scheduling/Staff Meetings - NC  
May 11-13 ..... GEET Camping Weekend - Table Rock Park, SC  
June 22-24 ..... Thousand Oaks Gospel Sing - MB

### MERVIN WENGERD BTF = Bondage to Freedom, CR = Conflict Resolution

Apr 19-21 ..... BTF Seminar - Huttonsville CC, WV  
Apr 26-28 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
Apr 30-May 2 ..... Conflict Resolution Seminar - Baylor CI, DE  
May 7-10 ..... Annual Scheduling/Staff Meetings - NC  
May 11-13 ..... GEET Camping Weekend - Table Rock Park, SC

### HARBOUR LIGHTS (PENNER FAMILY)

Apr 8 ..... Grace Bible Church - Stone Lake, WI (PM)  
Apr 10 ..... Ruthven School - Ruthven, ON  
Apr 11 ..... Immanuel Christian School - Aylmer, ON  
Apr 13 ..... Faith Menn. Church - Wellesley, ON (w/Eduard Klassen)  
Apr 15 ..... Berea Christian Fellowship - Leetonia, OH (AM)  
Apr 15 ..... Mount Zion House of Prayer - Utica, OH (PM)  
Apr 17 ..... Grace Menn. Chapel - Hadley, PA  
Apr 18 ..... Faith Christian Fellowship - Middleburg, PA  
Apr 19-22 ..... Light of Hope Prison Crusade - Middleburg, PA  
Apr 26-28 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
Apr 29 ..... Green Terrace Menn. Church - Wernersville, PA  
May 5 ..... Mountain View Nursing Home - Aroda, VA  
May 6 ..... Morning View Menn. - Singers Glen, VA (AM)  
May 6 ..... Faith Menn. - South Boston, VA (PM)  
May 7-10 ..... Annual Scheduling/Staff Meetings - NC  
May 11-13 ..... GEET Camping Weekend - Table Rock Park, SC

### MEL STOLTZFUS FAMILY

Apr 19-22 ..... Light of Hope Prison Crusade - Middleburg, PA  
Apr 26-28 ..... Benefit Auction Weekend - New Holland, PA  
May 7-10 ..... Annual Scheduling/Staff Meetings - NC  
May 11-13 ..... GEET Camping Weekend - Table Rock Park, SC

Visit our website for updates on scheduling, ministry team news, recordings, and more: [www.gospelexpressonline.org](http://www.gospelexpressonline.org)

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