

Saints and sinners: 'This I believe' old but relevant

The TV news business is going through troubling times. People aren't tuning in to the network news as they used to. Once highly rated news programs are being called "irrelevant." The Sunday morning talk-show pundits are losing their drawing power.

Does the news need something new? Or, more to the point of this story, something old? Something like the 1950s radio program, "This I Believe," which presented the personal beliefs of men and women from around the world — written by themselves and read by themselves on 200 radio stations across the United States, Europe and Asia.

The program also reached over 10 million people through its appearance in U.S. newspapers, in addition to newspapers in 97 foreign countries.

The story starts with Edward R. Murrow, who

wrote this foreword to the first volume of the book, "This I Believe," (Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1952): "In the autumn of 1940 when Britain stood alone, when the bombers came at dusk each evening and went away at dawn, I observed a sign on a church. It was crudely lettered and read, 'If your knees knock, kneel on them.'

"As the months wore on and the nights lengthened, and the casualty lists mounted, I became more concerned to understand what sustained this island people, what beliefs caused them to stand so steady in their shoes."

Turn the clock ahead to 1949. Four men are at lunch together — one of them the broadcast icon, Edward R. Murrow. During the course of the meal, the conversation turned to a discussion of the truism that "among people generally, material values are gaining and spiritual values declining."



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

What could be done? It was decided by those at the table that a chosen number of men and women would unfold their personal philosophy, tell what they deem important in life and the rules by which they run their own lives. Many of their stories, Murrow was sure, would read like the stories of fortitude and indomitable courage, resourcefulness and endurance that were marks of the British character in the autumn of 1940 when Murrow manned the watch-

towers in England.

Those who received invitations to be contributors were told, "We would like you to tell not only what you believe, but how you reached your beliefs — and if they have grown, what made them grow."

The stories that make up the two volumes of "This I Believe" number more than 200 — from Bernard Baruch and Eddie Cantor to Darryl Zanuck.

My favorite is by Oscar Hammerstein II, author of such Broadway hits as "Oklahoma!" and "South Pacific" and songs such as "The Last Time I Saw Paris" and "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning." He wrote: "I don't believe anyone can enjoy living in this world unless he can accept its imperfection.... Nature is older than man and she is still far from perfect. Her summers do not always start promptly on June 21st. Her

bugs and beetles and other insects often go beyond her obvious intentions, devouring the leaves and buds which she has adorned her countryside.

"After the land has remained too dry for too long, she sends relieving rains. But frequently they come in torrents so violent that they do more harm than good. Over the years, however, nature keeps going on in her imperfect way and the result, in spite of her many mistakes, is a continuing miracle. It would be folly for an individual to seek to do better — to do better than go on in his own imperfect way, making his mistakes, riding out the rough and bewildering, exciting and beautiful storm of life until the day he dies."

Stories like these can give an inspiring boost to the daily news now languishing on the Internet.

Billy Graham's daughter takes different approach; stays with family business

By Gary D. Robertson

Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. — Anne Graham Lotz says she doesn't have the gifts that made her father the 20th century's most famous evangelist.

And she never sought the mantle that brother Franklin has taken, leading the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association into the 21st century. Yet the revival speaker from Raleigh has still followed her father and brother into the family business — with her own style.

"There are a lot of people who feel like I do," she said. "They're longing for a fresh touch from God."

Holding meetings in large arenas, writing books and speaking at venues such as the United Nations and the National Cathedral, Lotz's ministry is slowly becoming a force in the American evangelical movement — and she has become some-

thing of a trailblazer.

"What she has done at some degree is broken down the gender barrier in evangelicalism, (though) not completely," said Randall Balmer, a Barnard College professor and expert on the evangelical movement. "Her name makes that possible."

While Lotz has carved out her own ministry, being the second child of Billy and Ruth Graham has helped her gain attention and access to events where she might otherwise not have been on the speakers' list.

Her preaching inflections, sharp business suits and polished looks remind revival participants of her father's persona during his crusading heyday. Lotz shies away from such comparisons.

"I don't think anybody will ever be like Daddy," she said.

Lotz said she's never sought the spot-

light. She holds meetings only in places where she's been invited, and after prayer, where she says God has told her to go.

"When I get up on the platform in the arena I'm not pointing my finger at them and telling them what they need," Lotz said in an interview peppered with biblical references. "I'm telling them where I've been and this is what I need and it makes a difference."

Lotz's message is one that conservative Christians — particularly women — say they can relate to.

In the late 1990s, Lotz said, her aging parents had health setbacks, her son was diagnosed with cancer and her husband's dental office burned to the ground. The weight of her family troubles and job took a toll on what she calls her personal relationship with God.

"Under all the pressure, I just wanted him in a clearer, simpler, more satisfying,

deeper way," Lotz said. "That began to be my heart's cry."

That cry led her to study the Bible and write the book, "Just Give Me Jesus," a study of the New Testament Gospel of John. That, in turn, led to revival meetings, at which Lotz preaches to crowds she says want a similar relationship with God.

"She is a compelling communicator," said Leigh O'Dell, director of a Lotz revival last month in Raleigh. "She presents the message that God has given her in a powerful way."

Lotz, who turns 54 this month, got married at 18 to a former University of North Carolina basketball player, Danny Lotz.

Her ministry really began in 1976, when she founded a chapter of a group called Bible Study Fellowship. The reasons were partly selfish, she said. A mother of three young children, she

wanted a reason to be disciplined in Bible reading and prayer, as her mother was.

"I wanted somebody to start it. Nobody would do it, so I began the class so I could be in it," Lotz said. "That's how noble I was."

Even without a divinity or Bible school degree, Lotz's weekly studies soon attracted 500 people; more were on waiting lists. A 1983 sermon she gave at a Graham association event for itinerant evangelists in the Netherlands further raised her profile.

Her words caught her father's attention: "I felt that our daughter ... was speaking directly to me when she told the huge assembly, 'It is not only your words, it is your life which is an evangelistic message to the world,'" Graham wrote in his 1997 autobiography.

Lotz led Bible Study Fellowship classes for 12 years before starting her

own AnGeL Ministries (taking the initials from her name), in 1988. The ministry hasn't focused on evangelism; rather it's worked on what evangelical Christians called "discipleship," or helping Christians find a deeper relationship with God.

That's partly the reason AnGeL Ministries has stayed separate from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which has a \$105 million budget, dwarfing AnGeL's \$2.1 million a year.

The association "is an evangelistic group," she said. "I come a little bit after that. I'm the person who helps that person grow up in their faith."

Since the start of AnGeL, she's written four books and received invitations to speak around the world at seminaries, churches and conferences. She began holding revival events in arenas in 2000, has four more planned this year and hopes to hold one in eastern Europe in 2003.



Calvary Gospel Church

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Don Crutcher

Fifth & Broadway

899-7368

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Evening Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains

Fourth & College • 899-3605

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Family Night: 7 pm

Adult Bible Study and Youth Group

Saturday: Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm

If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell

899-6185

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:45 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Matthew Delp

Third & Caldwell

899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:50 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Bud Chester

Fifth & Center • 899-3450

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am

Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Loren Strait

Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233

Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship

Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman

899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

Minister: Tony Kafka

Youth Minister: Doug Bean

Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Wednesday:

Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm

Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

Pastor: Scott Grimshaw

Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox

399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor:

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am

Morning Worship: 11 am

Evening Worship: 6 pm

Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Worship Service: 11 am

Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm

Adult Bible Study 6 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

Priest: Father Charles Schneider

Deacon: Gretchen Talitha

Adult Forum: Sunday: 8:30 am

Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays

Holy Eucharist: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30

Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470

Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th

899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh

Sunday: Worship Celebration &

Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

Daily Prayer: Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead

307 W. 13th • 899-7205

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 6 pm

Sunday: 8 am and 10:30 am

Spanish Mass:

1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church

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Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70

Pastor: Jim Cross

899-5784

Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am

Sunday School: 10 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

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