



# THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 21, Folder 2, Graham, Billy, 1970-1971.

# Billy Graham - Euro 70

Room 202, Hotel Römischer Kaiser,  
Olpe 2,  
46 Dortmund, GERMANY

Telephone: Dortmund 52 85 69

April 9, 1970

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Your letter to Billy Graham dated March 23 was forwarded to him here in Germany where he is presently engaged in the Euro 70 Crusade. We have been averaging over 100,000 people per night.

Billy personally read your letter and wanted me to thank you in his behalf as he has not been able to answer his mail for over two weeks because of an extremely heavy schedule. He did very much appreciate your kind words concerning our new film on Israel entitled HIS LAND.

God bless you and again, thank you.

Sincerely yours,



T. W. Wilson  
Associate to Mr. Graham

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs Department  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

TWW:MW

# His Land

A musical journey into the soul of a nation

*A sight-and-sound experience in the Holy Land*



April 21, 1970

Mr. Gerald Strober  
American Jewish Committee  
165 E. 56th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Strober:

Recently it was my distinct pleasure and privilege to spend several months in Israel, filming a new and exciting motion picture entitled "HIS LAND". Both the Old and New Testaments have a great deal to say about this land, its people and the events that are to take place there. "HIS LAND" captures some of the history and the spirit of these happenings.

Israeli Ambassador, Y. Rabin, after a recent private screening of the film in Washington, D.C., wrote of how impressed he was by the film's message of "love for the land of Israel and its people and the deep historic ties of the people of Israel and the land of the Bible".

A preview of this new production will be held for the Press, invited guests and special dignitaries on Friday, May 1, 1970 at 3:00 p.m. in the Johnny Victor Theatre, 40 West 49 Street, New York City.

We expect introductory comments will be made by several community leaders, including Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee; Rev. Edward Flannery, Executive Secretary of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Commission on Catholic-Jewish Relations; and Mr. Frank R. Jacobson, Executive Vice President of World Wide Pictures and producer of "HIS LAND."

It would be an honor to have you as our guest on this special occasion. We hope it will be possible for you to attend.

Most sincerely,

Kenneth Bliss  
Director of Distribution

RSVP

with CLIFF RICHARD and CLIFF BARROWS

Music composed and conducted by Ralph Carmichael

Executive Producer Frank R. Jacobson

Written and Directed by James F. Collier/Color by Eastmancolor



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

70-700-22

May 29, 1970

World Wide Pictures - the film producing and distribution company established by Billy Graham - has produced a 54 minute color film on Israel that is being widely shown, especially in churches, throughout the United States. The film is available in 16 mm or 35 mm.

Mr. Graham asked AJC to help World Wide Pictures organize several previews for Christian and Jewish audiences. During the past month we cooperated in setting up four separate previews in New York City for representatives of Catholic, major Protestant denominational and national Jewish bodies. With the exception of several liberal Protestant bodies, which have had both theological as well as institutional reservations growing out of their investments in missionary enterprises in the Arab world, the reactions of the majority of the Christians and Jews have been overwhelmingly positive.

In addition, we have learned from World Wide Pictures that they have begun to show the film in a number of churches with exceptionally positive effect. For example, during the past two months some 200 churches in San Francisco have been showing the film and about 176 churches in Chicago have also been showing the film to their congregations. In Minneapolis, the largest liberal Lutheran Church has shown His Land to packed audiences, with apparently quite positive impact.

These previews have led us to the conclusion that His Land represents one of the most creative interpretive instruments for winning empathetic interest and support for the people and the state of Israel in its struggle for survival and security. In effect, this film is reaching more Christians--Catholic, liberal as well as conservative Protestant-- night after night with a more appealing message about Israel than most of the Jewish organizations combined could ever reach.

The purpose of this memorandum, therefore, is two-fold:

a) To alert you to the availability of this film and to suggest ways in which you can help make it available to appropriate Christian audiences, as well as for use in Jewish-Christian institutes;



b) To suggest some guidelines in relating to this film that will help avoid misunderstandings in both the Christian and Jewish communities.

In terms of guidelines, it is essential to point out the following:

1) This is a Christian film, made by Christians essentially for Christian audiences. It is not intended for Jewish audiences and should not be shown unless the Jewish audience understands from the onset that its message is not for them. The most significant feature of this film is that it communicates in dramatic, warmly sympathetic terms a moving documentary which communicates the humanity and living reality of the Jewish people, their struggles and achievements in Israel. To many Christians the Jews are still an abstraction, an arch-type and Israel is a headline in the newspaper that suggests war and conflict. This film enables Christian viewers to penetrate behind the abstractions and the headlines and to have a personal experience with living people in their joys and sorrows. This is no minor achievement.

In showing this film to Jewish audiences, an introductory statement of this order is essential, otherwise the film will be misunderstood.

2) ~~If this film has not been shown to Christian churches in your community, we encourage you to try to see to it that it will be shown. We strongly urge that the film be shown under Christian auspices. That suggests that you contact close friends in the Christian community asking them to undertake to write to World Wide Pictures for a print of the film and to arrange for a preview for local Catholic, Protestant, and Evangelical leadership. The address of World Wide Pictures is 1313 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403, and the person to contact is the Rev. Kenneth Bliss. There is no cost for renting the film but shipping charges need to be covered and a "free will offering" is welcome. There are two versions of His Land. Please be sure to specify the 54 minute film designed for general audiences.~~

Depending on your relationship with your Christian friends, you may want to be of indirect assistance in assuring that the right lists of people are prepared, and that appropriate letters of invitation are sent out. Enclosed is a copy of a letter of invitation that Mr. Bliss sent out for the first New York preview of His Land for Christian audiences.

~~The objective of the preview should be to arrange for local pastors and church councils to show the film to as large audiences as possible. World Wide Pictures has prepared a study guide to be~~

May 29, 1970

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used for Christian audiences for discussions after they have seen the film.

3) There is an area in which ~~Jewish direct cooperation is possible and that is in the use of the film to start off Jewish-Christian institutes, seminars, dialogues, colloquia.~~ The AJC has prepared an interreligious study guide for His Land that ~~will be made available for discussion groups.~~

Even in this interreligious use the invitations should be extended ~~by an interreligious committee consisting of local Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish leadership.~~

If you have any further questions, please feel free to write to us. Under all circumstances, we would be most grateful if you could keep us informed of the exact use you make of this film in both the Christian community as well as in interreligious dialogues. We would also be interested in the kind of reactions that you get to the film.

Thank you very much for your interest and cooperation.

Marc H. Tanenbaum

MHT:FM  
Encl.





June 8, 1970

✓  
Dr. Billy Graham  
Montreat, North Carolina

Dear Dr. Graham:

I broadcast a weekly radio commentary over WINS-Westinghouse Broadcasting System and last Sunday I took the liberty of devoting my commentary to the theme of "Billy Graham and the Jewish Community."

I thought that you might find it of some interest to see the enclosed text.

In behalf of all of us I want to thank you again for the great contribution that you and your associates have made in producing His Land. Except for the theological dissent of a small number of liberal Christians, we have had only the most positive reactions to the film. If you have not seen it, I also enclose a clipping from The New York Times.

The attached memorandum has been sent around to Jewish leadership, including rabbis from all branches of Judaism throughout the country, in order to help prepare them for proper understanding of the film.

I do hope we will have occasion to meet again when you are next in New York City.

With warmest personal good wishes and my prayers for God's continued

Dr. Billy Graham  
Page 2

June 8, 1970

care over you, I am

Cordially as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:MSB  
Encls.





BILLY GRAHAM

Montreat, N. C.  
June 15, 1970

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Thank you for your letter of June 8 to Mr. Billy Graham which has arrived in his absence.

Mr. Graham is away for a few days of rest and study and preparation for the crusade in New York City which begins in a few days.

I know Mr. Graham will be very interested in seeing your letter and the articles you enclosed and will bring them to his attention at the earliest possible moment.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie Brookshire*

(Mrs.) Elsie Brookshire  
Office Assistant

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
The American Jewish Committee  
Institute of Human Relations  
165 East 56 Street  
New York, New York 10022

*F. Billy Graham*

June 26, 1970

Bertram H. Gold

Marc H. Tanenbaum

PERSONAL

Meeting with Billy Graham, June 25, 1970 - 7:30 P.M.

Billy Graham is in New York City this week to conduct his Crusade at the Shea Stadium. On Tuesday, June 23, Gerald Strober and I met with one of his top aides who indicated that Mr. Graham would be pleased to see us, in particular to discuss plans for the July 4 Honor America Day.

Last night Gerry, my wife and I met Mr. Graham in his dressing room at the Shea Stadium and we spent about 20 minutes together. Present in the room were several of Mr. Graham's closest aides and Mr. Roger Hull, president of New York Life Insurance Company, who is treasurer of the Crusade.

As customary, Mr. Graham was extremely cordial and warm and expressed appreciation for our coming to the Crusade. In turn I thanked him for everything that he has been doing for the Jewish people in recent months, meaning by that both his interventions ~~with the White House~~ and the film "His Land." He responded by saying that he was most grateful for the statement that I had made over my WINS broadcast regarding him, he observed that he had never gotten such a good press in the Jewish and secular publications.

Since there were others present I decided not to raise the question of Secretary Rogers' statement earlier in the day in which he refused to comment on making available the planes to Israel. Mr. Graham, however, immediately volunteered to raise the subject by saying that he is very disturbed by what happened this morning. "Our friends /meaning the Israelis/ have talked to me and I have in turn been in touch with Washington. I was told that everything was going to be all right and now I just don't understand what has happened. They have not kept their word with me and I intend to find out very shortly what is going on."

Bertram H. Gold

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June 26, 1970

Mr. Graham said that he plans to meet with the President at the San Clemente White House as he prepares to leave for a visit to Tokyo. He promised to keep in touch with us as soon as he has some information.

Regarding the July 4 observance, he sought to assure me this was to be a non-political affair whose sole purpose is to affirm the American democratic heritage. He told me that he plans to build his speech around the concept of the Statue of Liberty. He also indicated that he would include a moral and spiritual motif but not an evangelical Christian one. He indicated that Bishop Fulton J. Sheen had accepted to give the benediction and that a black leader from Watts, E.B. Hills, will serve as chairman for the proceedings. He expressed appreciation for my agreeing to take part in the program.

MHT:rd



July 7, 1970

Dr. Billy Graham  
Montreat  
North Carolina

Dear Dr. Graham:

I want to express my appreciation to you for the warm friendship and aid of your staff in the Honor America Day religious service planning and execution. It must be a great satisfaction to you to have such a competent team of people working with you. Each time I come in contact with staff members I am profoundly impressed by their ability, dedication and warmth of spirit.

I must also tell you how much I enjoyed and appreciated your presentation at the Lincoln Memorial. It was, in my opinion, one of the finest public addresses I have been privileged to hear. You struck a deeply important note and I hope your remarks receive the widest possible circulation.

I know that Marc Tanenbaum joins me in expressing to you our deep appreciation for your friendship and interest in the issues we find ourselves so deeply involved with. I hope that you and your family will enjoy a pleasant summer and we look forward to seeing you during the Fall to continue the dialogue with leaders of the Jewish community.

Dr. Billy Graham

Page 2

July 7, 1970

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your family as you prepare for the activities of the coming months.

Cordially,

Gerald Strober

Consultant

Interreligious Affairs Department

GS:rd



July 9, 1970

The Reverend Dr. Billy Graham  
Montreat  
North Carolina

My Dear Dr. Graham:

As I reflect on the marvel of last Saturday in Washington, the words of the Psalmist ring in my consciousness, "This is the day that the Lord hath made, let us be glad and rejoice in it..."

It was a brilliant achievement, and your wise, balanced, and challenging address transformed the entire occasion into a prophetic event. As I mentioned to Hobart Lewis, you made something real and positive happen in the consciousness of millions of Americans, and I thank God for your presence in our midst and for your dedicated ministry.

For me personally it was a rare and precious privilege to take part in the religious program, and I am deeply grateful to you and your colleagues for inviting me.

This December we are co-sponsoring with the Evangelical Theological Society a seminar possibly on the theme "Resurrection: Jewish and Christian Perspectives." At an early date, when you have a few hours, I would greatly welcome an opportunity to meet with you at some leisure so that we might have a chance to discuss some basic



**The Rev. Dr. Billy Graham**

**Page 2**

**July 9, 1970**

**theological and related questions. We have touched on these in passing, and you have whetted my appetite for a richer feast.**

**Again, with appreciation for everything you mean to us in the Jewish community, and with my prayers for God's continued care over you, I am**

**Cordially,**

**Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs**

**MHT:rd**



July 7, 1970

Mr. George Wilson  
Executive Vice President  
Billy Graham Evangelist Association  
1300 Harmon Place  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55403

Dear Mr. Wilson:

It was indeed a pleasure to meet you last Friday in Washington. Your name has been familiar to me over the years and it was wonderful to finally get to know in a personal way the third of the three Wilsons. I know I speak for my colleague, Marc Tanenbaum, when I say how very much we enjoyed being in Washington and having a part in what was a most significant occasion. The friendship and aid of you and your colleagues played no small role in our enjoyment of the day.

I hope to be in Minneapolis later in the year and I shall certainly let you know beforehand so that I may take you up on your generous offer to tour your facilities. For the moment please be assured of my best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

Cordially,

Gerald Strober  
Consultant  
Interreligious Affairs Department

GS:rd

AUG 1 1970

PHOENIX (ARIZ) Republic

## Kind of interfaith miracle

# Christian-made film on Israel lauded by Jews

By GEORGE W. CORNELL  
AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK — What amounts to a kind of interfaith miracle is happening in a movie now circulating in many American churches.

It popped in unexpectedly from the sidelines. Made by an evangelistic agency, it has caught on among all sorts of Christians, and it's now being spontaneously and heartily applauded by Jews, too.

Yet it involves a tense topic: the religious-historical significance of the modern state of Israel. Ordinarily, the deep ramifications have been considered hard for anyone but Jews to fully understand.

However, they say that one of the most powerfully dramatic and perceptive documentary films explaining the matter has been turned out — not by Jews — but by a Christian group, the Billy Graham organization.

It's the best thing of its kind that has been done ei-

ther by Christians or Jews," says Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum, director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee. "It's a milestone."

"In my view, it's the most important Christian document on relationships to Israel since the creation of the state. It's an act of Christian love for the Jewish people, of kinship and commitment to a living community."

Considering the ambivalence of some major church and ecumenical organizations regarding Israel's present struggle, it's all the more unusual that a prime expression of Jewish-Christian solidarity would come from an independent evangelical sector.

The film, "His Land," is a heart-tugging masterpiece, reflecting both the mysterious force of Judaism in human annals, despite all the pressures against it, and also the tears, vitality and hopes of a homeland reborn. (The film has been shown in more than

a dozen Valley churches recently.)

It offers a Christian perspective, but grounds it in the Jewish past and present, and links it to Israel's destiny.

Various Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders, while sometimes citing exceptions to literal interpretations of Biblical passages, have acclaimed the film as a major achievement, particularly valuable for interreligious discussions.

"Beautiful, warm, stirring, powerful," commented Episcopal Canon William I. Van Meter of the New York Council of Churches.

"Excellent for ecumenical reasons, too," said Sister Rose Thering of the Catholic Institute for Judeo-Christian Studies of Seton Hall University.

Commented Otilia Jerichiver of the National Board of YWCA: "Perhaps the finest film made to promote understanding between the major religions."

It is being seen by about 10,000 to 15,000 people daily at church and civic gatherings across the country.

Produced in color at a cost of about \$250,000 by World Wide Pictures, the film division of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Minneapolis, the hour-long film is available free on a free-will offerings basis.

If features Graham's musical director, Cliff Barrows,

and British singing star Cliff Richards. It has been called a "musical journey" into the history, faith, humanity and heart of a nation.

Israel Prime Minister Golda Meir, after viewing a screening this spring, said, "So many thanks for picturing our land as it is. I've never seen it so beautiful."

Jerusalem's mayor, Teddy Kollek, an authority on the Biblical past and present of the Holy City, said he'd "never seen a better film about

Jerusalem — ever."

Sprinkled with Biblical prophecies and quotations of Jesus, the film blends them into events since, including Israel's restoration in struggle, its vigorous development, its present trials and veiled future.

The vivid camera, the lean conversation, the sparkling songs roam the Biblical and modern landscape, from the Sea of Galilee to the Negev Desert, from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, telescoping the long stretch of time into the surging present life.



# Graham's Film on Israel Lauded by Jews, Christians

BY GEORGE W. CORNELL

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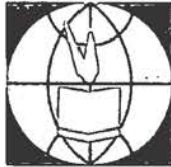
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The American Jewish Committee, joining in promoting the film through screenings here, says it is reaching more people "night after night with a more appealing message about Israel" than Jewish organizations could ever reach.

Says the film's director, Jim Collier: "If God would use any part of this picture as a gesture of love from a Christian to a Jew, it will be more than worthwhile."

THE Billy Graham



EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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The Rev. Walter H. Smyth, D.D.  
Vice President  
Crusade Organization  
and Team Activities

August 7, 1970

Mr. Gerald Strober  
The American Jewish Committee  
Interreligious Affairs Department  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Gerry:

Since the close of the New York Crusade and subsequent to our brief encounter in Washington, D. C., I have been trying to write you and not another day must pass without my getting a note on its way to you. I greatly appreciated your kind letter and can assure you that the hope of renewed fellowship, from time to time, is certainly mutual, for I feel that it has been my very real privilege to meet and work with you and Rabbi Tanenbaum.

We praise God for the unmistakable evidence of His Spirit at work in our midst, once again, in New York. Then, too, HONOR AMERICA DAY was a monumental reason for thanksgiving for, apart from the grace of God and His faithful leadership, it seemed to me--at times anyway--that the morning service (which, of course, was the part of the day's activity which most concerned us) could have been a veritable "Mission Impossible!" In any case, I have said all that to say this--I deeply appreciate your cooperation during all that has transpired, with regard to both New York and Washington.

God bless you, Gerry, and thank you for the assurance of your prayers. I leave for Europe this weekend and would be especially grateful if you would remember us there, as we meet concerning an European Congress on Evangelism which is now scheduled for August 28 to September 4, next year in Amsterdam. By the way, we trust that you will be able to see the New York Crusade television series, which will be broadcast sometime in September. You will often be in our thoughts and in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Walter H. Smyth

WHS:emp





UNION CITY, N.J.  
HUDSON DISPATCH  
— D. 55,356 —  
NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN AREA

AUG 7 1970

## Religion Today

# "His Land" Hailed as Miracle Of Interfaith Understanding

By GEORGE W. CORNELL

NEW YORK (AP) — What amounts to a kind of interfaith miracle is happening in a movie now circulating in many American churches.

It popped in unexpectedly from the sidelines. Made by an evangelistic agency, it has caught on among all sorts of Christians, and it's now being spontaneously and heartily applauded by Jews, too.

Yet it involves a tense topic: the religious-historical significance of the modern state of Israel. Ordinarily, the deep ramifications have been considered hard for anyone but Jews to fully understand.

However, they say that one of the most powerfully dramatic and perceptive documentary films explaining the matter has been turned out—not by Jews—but by a Christian group, the Billy Graham organization.

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# Billy Graham: A Profile

*Close Plain Dealer*  
By Thomas Vail 7/20/70

What kind of a man is the Rev. Billy Graham off the public platform?

Following a day of private meetings and personal conversations with him, a series of observations come immediately to mind about this unique person who is reported to be the most respected world religious figure after the Pope.



Courteous, tall, good looking, Graham is informal, perceptive and constructive. There is not a bit of the phony or even the showman off the platform.

**LIKE MOST MEN** of world proportion, Billy Graham is a marvelous combination of information on what is going on in the world.

But he is most unusual in that he offers a constructive approach not on public policy but rather a suggestion for human attitudes.

In a world too full of criticisms and hopelessness, Dr. Graham offers an antidote to the negative and pessimistic attitudes that have been so prevalent.

As to the state of life in America at the moment, the famous evangelist cannot avoid the observation that the United States is not heading in the best of directions.

The cycle of nations has been predicted by historians for centuries, consisting of a drive to the top, followed by affluence, decadence, anarchy, chaos, violence, and finally the coming of a dictatorship to restore order.

It is against this cycle that Graham directs his plea for faith and decency. He sets his case directly against the idea that pleasure can be attained without achievement, or that happiness can come about without faith.

**PERHAPS GRAHAM** picks up the young just where the "Easy Rider" leaves off. In that recent movie so appealing to the young, a group of motorcyclists travels about the country looking for themselves. Their drugs and motorcycles and freedom lead nowhere.

Billy Graham urges work and decency and consideration instead of freedom and self-indulgence as a way out.

As a national and world figure working with but really outside the so-called religious establishment, Graham is unique.

He makes his appeal to all denominations, all ages, all nations.

He has not been allowed to crusade in Russia or eastern Europe but the Communist nations send emissaries to many of his gatherings.

In philosophy Graham leans right now to the conservative but he is modern, possessing a mind that is reading current affairs as accurately as a great reporter.

He likes to write and plans to do more of it in the future.

Although he has been offered all kinds of important positions by several presidents of the United States with whom he has been a confidant, Graham has decided that his great calling in life is religion and not the day to day activities of government.

Billy Graham is very progressive on the subject of religion, recognizing that organized religious institutions are in a state of decline but that there is a new interest in religion as it originally emerged.

Taking his philosophy and even his predictions from a study of the Bible, Graham sees religion particularly among the young reverting to questions of morality and conduct and faith as personal matters rather than directly related to the liturgy of one church or another.

**OF THE PRESIDENTS** he has known President Nixon impresses Graham the most, a rather heartening judgment.

Although only 51 and at the height of his powers, Billy Graham gets little time to enjoy the golf he would like to pursue further.

The famous preacher has five children with whom he has a very close relationship. He often returns to his native North Carolina where he maintains a very private family life in a rural setting near Asheville.

Progressive in religion, constructive in thought, conservative in politics, charismatic on the platform, Billy Graham is a delightful and unique evangelist. Cleveland should look forward to seeing and hearing from him again here in 1971 and 1972.

## THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

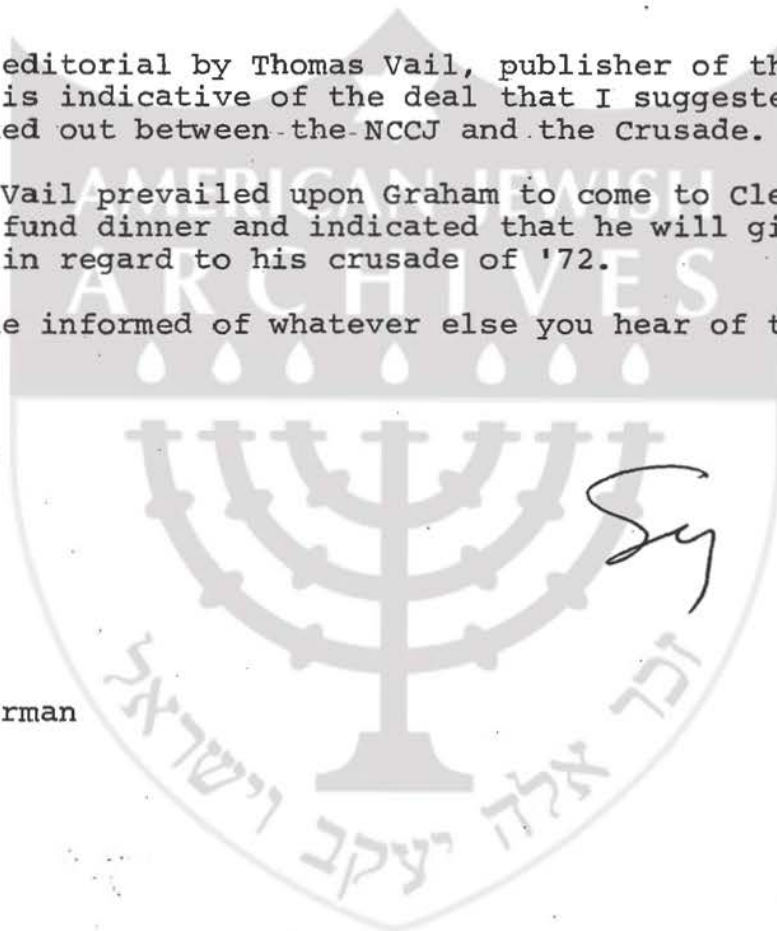
**date** September 21, 1970  
**to** Gerald Strober  
**from** Seymour Brief  
**subject** Billy Graham

The enclosed editorial by Thomas Vail, publisher of the Cleveland Plain Dealer is indicative of the deal that I suggested to you, has been worked out between the NCCJ and the Crusade.

As I see it, Vail prevailed upon Graham to come to Cleveland in '71 for the NCCJ fund dinner and indicated that he will give a great deal of p.r. in regard to his crusade of '72.

Please keep me informed of whatever else you hear of this.

SB:ss  
Enc.  
cc. Isaiah Terman





August 25, 1970

Rev. T. W. Wilson  
Montreat, North Carolina 28758

My dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you very much for your warm and gracious letter of August 11th. I appreciate your taking the time and trouble to write.

I welcome very much Mr. Graham's willingness to meet with me when he is in New York and I will certainly look forward to that privilege with much pleasure.

Please give him my warmest good wishes and my hopes that he has a good visit with his family which he so richly deserves.

My prayers for God's richest blessings over you and all the work of your hands.

Faithfully,

Rabbi Marc H. Tenenbaum  
National Director of  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:MSB

September 14, 1970

Mr. Keith Fuller  
Assistant General Manager  
Associated Press  
50 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, N. Y. 10020

Dear Mr. Fuller:

Confirming our telephone conversation of this afternoon, this is our official request for permission to reprint George Cornell's article on "His Land," the film that Billy Graham made about Israel.

We should like to distribute this article, along with a study guide, to an extensive ecumenical audience.

To help refresh your memory, I am enclosing a copy of the story as it appeared in one of the many newspapers from which we have received clippings.

We will be deeply grateful for your help.

Sincerely,

Natalie Flatow  
Media Specialist

NF/mcs  
Encl.

b.c. George Cornell  
Gerald Strober

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

50 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10020

A.P.

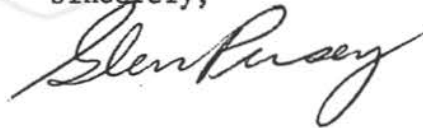
October 1, 1970

Miss Natalie Flatow  
The American Jewish Committee  
Institute of Human Relations  
165 East 56 Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Miss Flatow:

You have our approval to reprint George Cornell's article, "His Land," as requested in your September 14th. It should be credited to the Associated Press.

Sincerely,



RHA:lf

GLEN PUSEY  
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT



December 9, 1970

✓  
Dr. Billy Graham  
Montreat  
North Carolina 28757

Dear Dr. Graham:

## AMERICAN JEWISH

The National Executive Board of the American Jewish Committee's Appeal for Human Relations met last week and expressed a keen desire to confer upon you its newly created Award for Distinguished Achievement in Human Relations. The Board members who represent the highest level of lay leadership in the American Jewish community cited your many efforts on behalf of intergroup understanding and particularly your singular interest in the people and life of Israel.

The Board would be honored if you would accept this Award at a special dinner meeting to be held in New York City on February 1 or 2, 1970. This meeting would involve a highly select group of national Jewish leadership who convene to launch the Human Relations Appeal. Normally the group meets during the third week in January but this year they have decided to delay their session so as to facilitate your personal presence at this most significant event. It is certain that many Board members will be away after the first week in February and it will be most difficult to schedule another meeting until several months have passed.

Dr. Billy Graham  
Page 2  
December 9, 1970

I shall look forward to your response. Please be assured that you are often in our thoughts and prayers.

Best personal regards.

Gerald S. Strober  
Consultant  
Interreligious Affairs

GSS:rd



FLN PD

AMERICAN JEWISH COMM. 12/16/70

F

DR. BILLY GRAHAM  
C/O DR. GEORGE WILSON  
1300 HARBOR PLACE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

AS PER OUR CONVERSATION TODAY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
BOARD OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE WISHES TO CONFER  
ITS FIRST AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT IN HUMAN  
RELATIONS ON DR. GRAHAM AT A SPECIAL DINNER IN NEW YORK  
CITY, FEBRUARY FIRST OR SECOND. THE AWARD INTENDS TO  
HONOR DR. GRAHAM FOR HIS LIFELONG EFFORTS DEVOTED TO  
IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES AND NATIONS,  
(END OF SHEET ONE)

IAD:MSB



FLN -SHEET TWO

DEC. 16, 1970

IN PARTICULAR HIS INTEREST IN THE PEOPLE AND LAND OF  
ISRAEL. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASCERTAINING DR. GRAHAM'S  
RESPONSE IF POSSIBLE BY THIS WEEKEND. PLEASE TELEPHONE  
ME COLLECT 212-PL 1-4000 OR SATURDAY AFTERNOON UNTIL  
FIVE PM 212-TW 8-5463. MERBLESSINGS FOR THE HOLY SEASON  
AND WARMEST REGARDS.

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

CC: ABNER KUPPERMAN  
GERALD STROBER

LAD:MSB

F

T. W. WILSON  
MONTREAT, NORTH CAROLINA 28757

December 22, 1970

Dear Mr. Strober:

Thanks a million for your letter of November 9th. I tried several times to call you but for one reason or another was unsuccessful.

I talked to Billy about your kind, gracious invitation and of the honor you wanted to convey upon him. Unfortunately, on February 1st and 2nd they have decided to have the Presidential Prayer Breakfast in Washington, so this makes it impossible for him to come. As a matter of fact, between now and the third week of February he wouldn't have any time at all. But he did appreciate it, was highly honored and wanted me to convey this to you.

God bless you.

Sincerely,



Associate to Billy Graham

Mr. Gerald S. Strober  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

January 6, 1971

Dr. Billy Graham  
Montreat, North Carolina 28757

My dear Dr. Graham:

It is difficult to find words adequate to thank you for the magnificent statement you made last night on the Mike Wallace "60 Minutes" program regarding your feelings for the Jewish people and the Jewish community in Israel.

Your spirit of understanding and identification with the cause of the Jewish people continues to be one of the most heartwarming manifestations of Christian solidarity that my colleagues and I have been privileged to experience in decades, and I wanted you to know how profound is our appreciation of it.

My God continue to bless you in all your positive efforts towards reconciliation between our two great peoples who are common heirs of the Covenant.

With warmest personal good wishes for a healthy and, above all, peaceful New Year, I am

Cordially as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director of  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:MSB

cc: M. Yarmon  
F. Rosenberg



Personal

January 7, 1971  
(Dictated January 6th)

Mr. Mike Wallace  
CBS-TV News  
524 West 57th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mike:

In behalf of my colleagues at the American Jewish Committee and for myself personally I would like you to know how deeply grateful we are to you and your associates for your program last night on Romanian Jewry and Billy Graham.

Obviously we have a special bias in favoring such a program. However, I am certain that from an objective viewpoint Americans of whatever creed must have viewed this first class TV journalism that was both informative and insightful.

I have enjoyed a special friendship with Billy Graham over a number of years, and have written to him to express my appreciation for what he said and the way in which he said it over your program. I thought you might be interested in seeing a copy of that letter.

Again, with much appreciation and my best wishes for a healthy and, above all, peaceful New Year.

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director of  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:MSB  
Encl.

cc: Mr. Yarmen  
F. Rosenberg

January 11, 1971

Mr. Walter Smyth  
5561 28th Avenue  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33308

Dear Walter:

I just returned over the weekend from the west coast and I wanted to be sure to write and tell you how deeply grateful my wife and I are for your generosity in providing us with the most marvelous experience in Pasadena on New Year's Day.

To have been at both the parade and game on that beautifully sunny day was a high point that we will look back upon over the years with fond remembrance. I must say that it was a tremendous thrill to see Billy ride by as the parade started. To my mind his presence in the parade was symbolic of the great contribution he and you and all of your colleagues have made to the quality of American life and I was very happy to see this contribution recognized at events of national significance.

Walter, you have been a very warm friend both in coming to the Miami chapter meeting and also in extending the Pasadena hospitality to us. We are deeply in your debt and we want you to know how much we value your friendship. Please be assured of our very best wishes that you and your family enjoy a pleasant and healthy 1971. My prayers are with you and the team as you continue your crucial ministry over the coming months. I do hope that in the not to distant future we might have the opportunity for an extended personal conversation over mutual concerns.

-2-

My warmest personal regards.

Cordially,

Gerald Strober

GS:as





[start]

Original documents  
faded and/or illegible



J R

**NCCJ Award Dinner** ✓

*Evening Post 3/6/71*

## Ethel Waters to Join Graham Salute Here

Actress-singer Ethel Waters has accepted an invitation to appear with evangelist Billy Graham here Sunday, March 14, when he receives an award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Miss Waters will be among some 2,000 persons expected to pay tribute to Dr. Graham at the NCCJ dinner in the Hotel Sheraton-Cleveland. He will receive the International Brotherhood Award of the NCCJ.

Dr. Graham's appearance here will be his only engagement for two months. His doctors have ordered him to rest. He will fly here directly from Florida where he is vacationing.

NOW 74 AND semiretired, Miss Waters first met Dr. Graham at one of his crusades in 1957. She has followed his work closely since then.

### Ethel Waters

More than a third of those at the dinner will be from education, social work and religious circles, most of them guests of Cleveland's corporations and businesses at the \$50-a-plate dinner. All proceeds will further the work of the NCCJ here.

[end]

Original documents  
faded and/or illegible





May 18, 1971

Dr. T. W. Wilson  
Box 877  
Montreat, No. Car. 28757

Dear T. W.:

Thank you so much for your letter of May 10th and the early response to my question concerning information on Billy's career. I will very much look forward to hearing from Bob Fern who I had the pleasure of meeting during the Madison Square Garden and Shea Stadium crusades during the last two years. I am much appreciative of your help and am certain that Bob will be a very important resource for this project.

We will remember you as you prepare for Chicago.

Warmest regards.

Cordially,

Gerald Strober

GS:as

*Dr. Miller*

ALTMAN, MINER & GABALDON

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ZELL H. ALTMAN  
CHARLES E. MINER, JR.  
VAL GABALDON

219 NORTH DIXIE HIGHWAY  
LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA 33460

TELEPHONE 588-3311  
AREA CODE 305

Tuesday  
May 25, 1971

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you in connection with a long standing and ever present situation which tends to divide as opposed to bringing together the diverse groups which make up this great country of ours. Specifically, I refer to the vast number of Christian clergymen who are requested to give the invocation or benediction at public (as opposed to religious) gatherings and end such prayers with "we ask in the name of Jesus Christ ..." or other very similar phraseology.

Settlement of our country began as a result of religious persecution and the American way of life grew and developed on the premise that our society would be made up of peoples of all races, colors and creeds, and that each one would be accorded equal dignity and respect. This premise has been further substantiated by your many statements that ours is a way of life based upon the Judeo-Christian code, etc.

On Saturday, May 22, I watched the televised dedication of the LBJ Library in Austin, Texas, and was truly shocked when the Reverend Billy Graham closed his invocation (which was given on behalf of a truly public and governmental program before an audience made up noticeably of Jews and Gentiles) with "in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ ..." For the most part, I tell myself that clergymen who indulge in such a practice do so because of their religious training and not as an intentional slight to those who do not subscribe to their religious philosophy. But then there are other times, such as the LBJ dedication, when it becomes woefully apparent that the clergyman is truly insensitive to the feelings of others and frankly, should know better. When a man assumes the position of leadership, regardless of the level or purpose, he leaves the ranks of the ordinary man and in so doing many



The President  
Page 2  
May 25, 1971

obligations are thrust upon his shoulders, one of them being that he must acknowledge and treat all of those in his jurisdiction with fairness and equality.

C  
O  
P  
Y

As a member of the Jewish faith, together with millions of others like me in this country, I was born here as an American, this is my land, I served my country in the military service during World War II, I pay my taxes, being grateful for the opportunities given to me, have showed my appreciation for my country by serving in elective public office, together with leading a multitude of civic, fraternal, charitable and religious organizations, all of the same pointing to the fact that I am as American as anyone can be and when I witness a public ceremony I should not be made to feel "left out again, when will they have someone to pray for me." Naturally, my remarks are not directed to the times when the clergyman appears before a religious gathering as he is then expected to expound on his religious teachings.

I know that this problem doesn't affect the economy or National security, but Mr. President, because of your oft-time stated desire to bring us all together, would you please cause a modest directive to be issued instructing all clergymen officiating at public functions to invoke heavenly guidance on a non-sectarian basis. In all probability, you have never given this point any thought, and I suggest you briefly discuss it with those of the Jewish faith who are in government and I am sure they will agree that should you take such a step, you would receive the undying gratitude of Jews throughout this country.

Respectfully yours,

Zell H. Altman

ZHA:gm

cc: Reverend Billy Graham



May 28, 1971

The Rev. Dr. Billy Graham  
Montreat, North Carolina 28757

My dear Dr. Graham:

I cannot begin to find words adequate to express the heartfelt appreciation of Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich and myself for your characteristically sensitive and compassionate response to her plea for your assistance.

As you undoubtedly know, the sentences that were handed down yesterday by the Soviet Supreme Court were less severe than had been anticipated. That clearly is something of a moral victory and we feel sure that your personal interventions played a decisive role in helping to bring about that positive result.

In the case of Ruth Alekhandrovich this will mean imprisonment for about three or four months since the Soviet authorities announced they will deduct the number of months already spent in jail. Mrs. Aleksandrovich, with whom I spoke this morning, and we continue to be deeply concerned since Ruth suffered a kidney ailment earlier this week and was confined to the hospital. We can only hope and pray that her imprisonment will not result in a more serious deterioration of her physical health. It would be an act of great mercy if the Soviet authorities could be brought to release her because of her frail condition.

Since your gracious and humane response to the plight of Soviet Jewry has meant so much to us, I feel that it is important for Jewish and Christian leadership to know about your great act of Christian charity. I am, therefore, taking the liberty of sending

Rev. Dr. Billy Graham

-2-

May 28, 1971

a copy of your statement as it appeared in RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE and the ASSOCIATED PRESS to religious leaders throughout the United States and to many other parts of the world. Throughout my travels in this country and abroad there is a growing appreciation on the part of Jewish leadership of your remarkably sensitive understanding of Judaism and of Israel. This latest act of identification with the cause of the human rights of Russian Jewry will confirm, I am sure, how profound are the bonds between us.

Finally, Mrs. Aleksandrovich, Gerry Strober, and I want to thank you for making the time available to us out of your very busy schedule, especially on such short notice, to meet with you and Dr. T. W. Wilson last Monday. It is always an inspiration and a great privilege to be in your presence and I thank God that he has chosen you to be an instrument for such good and reconciliation between our faiths and our peoples.

Respectfully,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director of  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:MSB

May 29, 1971

Mr. Zell H. Altman  
Attorney at Law  
219 North Dixie Highway  
Lake Worth, Florida 33460

My dear Mr. Altman:

Copy of your letter to President Nixon, sent to the Reverend Billy Graham, has been referred to me by Mr. Graham's secretary as he is not available to reply.

Frankly, your protest concerning Mr. Graham's praying "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" is most surprising. Mr. Graham was praying as a dedicated Christian minister and, if he is faithful to his beliefs, that is the only way in which he can pray. Had a Jewish rabbi been leading in prayer, I do not believe that many Christians would have expected him to violate his own conscience in order to please them.

The Jewish people have no greater friend in the Christian ministry than Mr. Graham. He, along with many, many Christians, respects the Jewish people as a whole and feels that God has yet for them a great future as a nation. His attitude is so well known that on her last visit to America, Mrs. Golda Meir brought a special copy of the Hebrew English Bible and presented it to Mr. Graham personally.

It is because Mr. Graham is faithful to his own beliefs (as many Christians, I am sorry to say, are not), that he is respected and trusted. I hope that you will understand that if he is at any time called upon to pray in public, he will pray in the name of our Savior because he is so directed in the Bible. If it is your wish that he no longer be permitted to pray in Jesus' name, you will have to contact those responsible for inviting him.

Surely, considering the tribulations of your people in recent years, you would not want to be intolerant toward one who is your good friend.

Sincerely yours,



L. Nelson Bell

AGENT AND ATTORNEY IN FACT

LNB:w

c.c. to Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
c.c. to Martha



June 29, 1971

Dr. T. W. Wilson  
Box 877  
Montreat, N. C. 28757

Dear T. W.:

I very much enjoyed talking with you in Chicago at the opening of the Chicago Crusade. Just a couple of days after that I was on my way unexpectedly to Israel and only returned to New York this past weekend.

I had a marvelous visit there and was able to attend several of the sessions of the Jerusalem Conference on Biblical Prophecy. You will be interested to know that several Evangelical leaders headed by Dr. Arnold T. Olson of the Evangelical Free Church issued a statement on Jerusalem commending Israel for its scrupulous care of the holy places and calling for the continuance of the unity of Jerusalem under Israeli jurisdiction.

Rabbi Tanenbaum has just returned from delivering the commencement address at St. Louis University. While he was there Father Paul Reinart, the president of the university indicated that he would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with Billy at an early date. Father Reinart has undertaken a study program for the Danforth Foundation on Religion and Higher Education and he would like to exchange views with Billy on this subject.

I know that the Crusade schedule and other commitments are very tight for the coming months but if there is any possibility for such a meeting taking place, I would appreciate hearing from you

-2-

so that I might be in communication with Father Reinart.

Please convey to Billy my best wishes and be assured my prayers and thoughts are with you as you prepare for Oakland.

Warmest regards.

Cordially,

Gerald Strober

GS:as

BC: M. Tanenbaum



July 22, 1971

Dr. Robert Fern  
Greater North California Billy Graham Crusade  
470 27th Street  
Oakland, California

Dear Dr. Fern:

I am very pleased by your willingness to lend assistance to the project on Evangelicalism which I am currently working on for Association Press.

I have prepared the enclosed list of questions for Dr. Graham. The study will be concerned with an objective evaluation of the last ten years of Evangelical Christianity in the United States. The first section will deal with a summary of the last decade in terms of movement and trends. The second section will describe and evaluate Dr. Graham's ministry with particular reference to the role that he plays in contemporary American life. The third section will be a projection as to future, meaning and influence of Evangelicalism upon American life over the next several years.

I would be most happy to receive any comments or suggestions you might have to this outline as well as to the four page tentative introduction to the second section of the book which I have also enclosed.

Again, may I thank you for your interest and cooperation and I know you will be assured that my thoughts are with you and your associates during these days in Oakland.

Cordially,

Gerald Strober

GS:as  
Encs.



## QUESTIONS FOR DR. GRAHAM

1. The mainline Protestant denominations are experiencing serious declines both in financial support and membership. How would you explain this development? What is your prognosis for mainline denominationism over the next several years?
2. The decline of Protestant denominations will mean that many programs, particularly of those in the field of social action will be curtailed. Do you expect the void left by liberals in the area of social action to be filled by Evangelical activity?
3. In a personal sense you have made a major contribution to improving relations between black and white Evangelicals. Do you see a pattern emerging in the general Evangelical community which will strengthen these relationships on an across the board and grass roots level?
4. One of the main thrusts of your ministry is to call attention to the second coming of Jesus Christ. How do you balance this with your obvious interest in the social and political life of America?
5. The success of Evangelicalism during the last ten years has been due in large part to its leaders. Do you see a group of young leaders emerging who will continue this successful trend?
6. What are your views on the future of Evangelical Christianity in America?
7. The Gallup survey on Religion and America 1971 suggests that three out of four adults see religion as losing its influence in American life. How would you evaluate this reaction in terms of your own ministry and experience?
8. The same survey says that six in ten college students see organized religion as not a part of their lives. Does this agree with your own wide experience on campuses and college age youth?

9. The same Gallup survey says that by a four to one ratio Protestant ministers feel the churches should mainly be concerned with the spiritual life of the individual rather than problems of society as a whole. Would this be true of the clergy you are in touch with and would this represent any significant change from the period ten years ago?

10. In terms of a five year projection, what will the focus of your ministry be (a) major city crusades (b) campus activity and (c) extensive use of mass media.



September 15, 1971

Editor  
Reader's Digest  
Pleasantville, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I am currently engaged in research dealing with certain aspects of the career of Dr. Billy Graham.

Recently I came across mention of an article by Dr. Graham which appeared in the August 1960 issue of Reader's Digest.

If it is possible, I would greatly appreciate your forwarding to me a Xerox of this article.

Cordially,

Gerald Strober  
Consultant  
Interreligious Affairs

GS/eh



September 15, 1971

Editor  
Good Housekeeping Magazine  
8th Ave. & 57 St.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I am currently working on a research report involving Dr. Billy Graham.

In my research, I recently came across mention of an article which appeared some time in 1969 in your magazine in which President Nixon cited the influence of Dr. Graham upon his decision to run for the Presidency.

I would deeply appreciate your sending me a Xerox of this article which I believe was in the form of an interview with the President.

Cordially,

GS/eh

Gerald Strober  
Consultant  
Interreligious Affairs

October 19, 1971

Dr. Billy Graham  
c/o T. W. Wilson  
Box 877  
Montreat, North Carolina 28757

Dear Billy:

I am very late in responding to your hospitality at the New York Hilton Hotel and for your kindness in arranging your schedule so that you could meet with Mr. Dinitz. I have been traveling for the last several days and I am now trying to catch up on correspondence.

In addition, during the last two weeks I have been engaged in an analysis of the Broadway production of Jesus Christ Superstar. I have enclosed a copy of this analysis with this letter. The analysis deals with the production and Jewish-Christian relations. After a careful reading of the text and attendance at two preview performances I was deeply troubled by the negative implications of the production for relationships between Christians and Jews.

I would also like to say to you personally that I was very troubled by the theological implications of the Broadway production. The Jesus that is presented is rather different from the Jesus of the Gospels and the New Testament. He is weak, unsure of himself, uncertain concerning his role and future. In addition, he appears to misstate or misunderstand key Christian teachings. For example, he is pessimistic at the last supper and wonders whether or not he will be remembered. In the garden he sings a song which asks

whether he is about to die in vain and in his questioning he articulates an almost blasphemous view of the meaning of his life and death. Finally, the production never once mentions the Resurrection. Indeed, the play ends with Jesus crucified and dead. Beyond this I was very negatively struck by the sexual innuendo which runs through this current Broadway production. I offer these comments on a personal basis because I believe that you might be interested in learning what at least one observer felt when he viewed the production.

I would of course look forward to any comments you might have concerning the analysis or these personal words.

Permit me to congratulate you on the marvelous reception you received in Charlotte last Friday. I read about your experience with great satisfaction. Please know that I will be thinking of you on November 5. Warmest regards.

Cordially,

Gerald Strober  
Consultant  
Interreligious Affairs Department

GS:rd





November 12, 1971

✓  
Rev. Dr. Billy Graham  
Montreat, North Carolina 28757

My dear Dr. Graham:

In view of the decisive part that you played in helping our Government to understand the magnitude of the plight that was faced by Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich and her daughter, Ruth, who was imprisoned by Soviet authorities in a Siberian labor camp, I thought that you should be among the first to know that the interventions by our friends in Washington have resulted in the release of Ruth from prison last week. She, her fiancé, her father and uncle were given exit visas and have since been reunited with Rivka in Israel.

Their first act on reaching the Holy Land was to kiss the soil and then to go immediately to the Western Wall of the Holy Temple where they offered prayers of thanksgiving to God for having redeemed the captives of Israel.

Mrs. Aleksandrovich has just sent me a letter addressed to you which she asked me to forward to you since she did not have your address. She has also sent a small samovar which she purchased in Moscow and wishes you to have as a symbolic token of her profound gratitude for your loving and helpful spirit.

Together with Rivka and Gerry Strober I will forever remember those few moments together with you and T. W. Wilson in the Chicago hotel room as one of the most meaningful, spiritual and human experiences of my life. I will continuously be thankful to God for the privilege of your friendship and of knowing of your willingness to be present

Dr. Billy Graham

-2-

November 12, 1971

wherever people in suffering and pain need your help.

May God bless you and those who are at your side and care for the work of your hands.

With appreciation and cordial good wishes, I am

Faithfully,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director of  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:MSB

CC: Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich

  
BILLY GRAHAM

Montreat, N.C. 28757  
November 19, 1971


My dear Marc:

Thank you for your letter  
of November 12. I was deeply touched  
by the letter from Mrs. Alexandrovich.  
I shall keep it always.

The next time one of my  
associates goes to Israel I will send  
a letter to her by him.

I am With every good wish,

Cordially yours,



Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director of  
Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022