

**Statement by Evangelist Billy Graham  
On the Bridge Collapse in Minneapolis, MN  
Charlotte, August 3, 2007**

“We have been praying for comfort and strength for the families who have lost loved ones, the injured, and those traumatized as a result of the bridge collapse in Minneapolis this week.

“For more than fifty years, our office headquarters was in Minneapolis and we have many hundreds of friends and former staff members in the Twin Cities. Along with so many others in Minnesota and across the country, we continued to closely follow what occurred and were anxious to hear they were all safe. We were thankful to get a report that a car carrying friends to the Twins game at the Metrodome passed over the bridge at 6:03 p.m., just a few minutes before the bridge collapsed. But while we were relieved and rejoiced to get this word, we mourn with those who mourn.

“We are also much in prayer for the safety of the emergency workers who have been doing such a tremendous job of rescue and recovery. We have deployed our own Rapid Response Team chaplains to serve in any way they can, alongside the Salvation Army and other support groups.”

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