



For information contact:

Nancy Lindell
Mission Hospital
828 257-1202 24/7 pager
828 775-3075 cell
Nancy.Lindell@msj.org

A. Larry Ross,
Director Media/Public Relations
for Billy Graham
972.267-1111 Office
(469) 774-6362
alr@alarryross.com

Evangelist Billy Graham Remains at Mission Hospital

Asheville, NC, December 1, 2011- Evangelist Billy Graham had a restful evening and remains hospitalized at Mission Hospital in Asheville, near his home in Montreat, N.C.

The 93-year-old evangelist was admitted Wednesday for evaluation of his lungs, which has now been diagnosed as pneumonia.

“He is responding well to antibiotic treatment and is in stable condition,” said the pulmonologist treating Mr. Graham, Mark Hellreich, M.D.

Mr. Graham was previously hospitalized for successful treatment of pneumonia in May, 2011. He resumed his ongoing program of physical therapy and normal activity shortly after release, according to his staff.

Mr. Graham was visited at the hospital today by his pastor, Dr. Don Wilton, who led him in a time of prayer and Bible reading together as they normally do during Dr. Wilton’s weekly pastoral visits to the Graham home. Dr. Wilton shared from the New Testament passage found in Ephesians 1 about the love of God and the love of the people of God for each other, which has been powerfully demonstrated by the many messages, prayers and well-wishes that have poured in for Mr. Graham from people around the world in the past 24 hours.

Mr. Graham conveyed his gratefulness for those expressions of love and concern during visits last night and again this morning by his oldest daughter, Gigi, who lives in nearby Black Mountain, N.C., and has kept him informed about the thoughts and prayers being conveyed on his behalf, including those of his other children who live out of the area.

Mr. Graham is alert and in positive spirits, greeting hospital staff with interest and engaging them in questions about themselves. No date has been set for his discharge.

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