

RUTH BELL GRAHAM TIMELINE

- 1920 June 10: Ruth McCue Bell is born in China
- 1927 Bell family temporarily settles in Waynesboro, Va., due to political upheaval in China
- 1928 Bells return to Qingjiang, China aboard the *S.S. President Cleveland*
- 1933 Ruth sails to Pyongyang, (now North) Korea to attend high school
- 1935 Bells on one-year furlough to U.S., rent a stone house in Montreat, N.C.
- 1936 Ruth graduates from high school in Montreat, but returns to China with her family as they believe she's still too young for college in the U.S.
- 1937 Japanese attack Chinese troops at Marco Polo Bridge near Beijing; the occupation of Northern China begins
- 1937 War gets closer to the Bells in the fall
- 1937 Ruth travels to Seattle in October through Kobe, Japan
- 1938 Ruth enrolls at Wheaton College
- 1940 Billy Graham begins fall semester at Wheaton College, and is introduced to Ruth Bell
- 1941 Ruth drops out of school in March to take care of her sister, Rosa, who is convalescing from tubercular peritonitis; she and Billy continue to correspond
- 1941 Ruth accepts Billy's offer of marriage in April – several months after he proposed
- 1942 Ruth returns for her final year at Wheaton

- 1943 Ruth and Billy Graham marry August 13, two months after their graduation together from Wheaton; following honeymoon, begin pastorate at Western Springs Baptist Church outside Chicago
- 1945 Ruth and Billy Graham resign Western Springs pastorate and move into an upstairs bedroom in the Bells' home in Montreat, N.C.; Billy begins work with Youth for Christ
- 1945 Ruth gives birth to their first child, Virginia Leftwich (Gigi), in September
- 1948 Anne Morrow Graham, Ruth & Billy's second child, is born in May
- 1949 Ruth joins Billy for the Los Angeles Crusade, where media magnate William Randolph Hearst allegedly sent word to "puff Graham," launching Billy into the national media spotlight
- 1950 Billy establishes Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, begins a radio program that Ruth christens, "Hour of Decision"
- 1950 Ruth Bell (Bunny) is born in December
- 1952 Ruth assists Billy in writing his first book, "Peace with God"
- 1952 William Franklin Graham III is born in July
- 1952 Ruth accompanies Billy on the 12-week Greater London Crusade
- 1954 Ruth designs the family home in Montreat, N.C.
- 1956 The Grahams move into Montreat, N.C. home, called Little Piney Cove
- 1957 Billy Graham holds historic crusade in New York
- 1957 Billy Graham begins television career in June
- 1958 Nelson Edman (Ned) is born in May
- 1962 Billy Graham's father dies

- 1973 Ruth's father preaches at Swannanoa Presbyterian Church, and dies later that year
- 1973 Ruth travels to China and Bangkok
- 1974 While visiting the family of daughter Gigi, Ruth falls out of a tree from a height of 15 feet while fixing a tree slide for the grandchildren, and remains in a coma for one week; later that year, Ruth's mother dies at home
- 1975 Ruth accompanies her husband for a crusade in Taiwan
- 1976 The Grahams' vacation in Mexico is interrupted by an earthquake
- 1977-1980 Ruth travels around the world twice on ministry trips with her husband
- 1980 Ruth joins her sister, Rosa, and her brother, Clayton, in traveling to China to visit their hometown of Qingjiang
- 1988 Ruth's husband accompanies her on a return visit to China, where he is invited to preach several times
- 1996 Ruth is hospitalized with bacterial spinal meningitis, partially caused by a treatment for degenerative arthritis from her previous fall
- 1996 In May, President Bill Clinton presents Billy and Ruth with the Congressional Gold Medal – the highest honor Congress can bestow on a citizen