

NO MATTER WHERE WE ARE,  
**GOD IS AS CLOSE  
AS A PRAYER.**

- BILLY GRAHAM

**We at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada are blessed to lift up to God every prayer request we receive, and we pray that you are encouraged by these words:**

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7, ESV).*

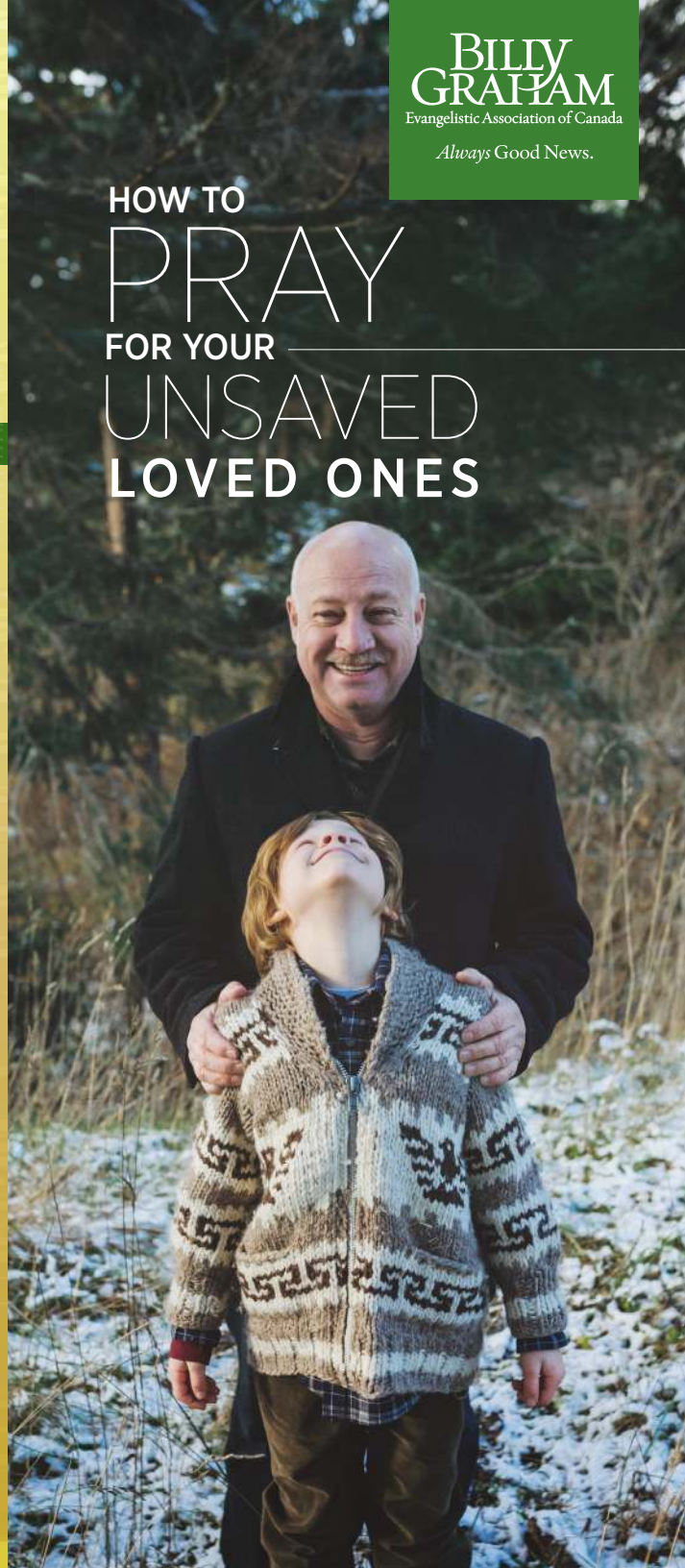
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HOW TO  
**PRAY**  
FOR YOUR  
**UNSAVED  
LOVED ONES**



**W**hen we ask our supporters how we can pray for them, one of the most consistent responses is not for them, but for the salvation of their unsaved family members—especially children and grandchildren.

Billy Graham knows how difficult it is to be a parent or grandparent and watch loved ones refuse the gift of “*eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 6:23, ESV).

During a 1978 Crusade in Toronto, he told thousands of listeners, “I heard a psychiatrist say something that helped me. He said ‘your children may come to a point where they do rebel, because most children come to a point where they’re seeking their own identity. Maybe some of them wildly rebel.’”

WE ARE TO SET THE  
EXAMPLE “OF BIBLE  
READING, OF PRAYER,  
OF INTEGRITY, OF  
TRUTHFULNESS,  
OF HONESTY.”

Dr. Graham knew what he was talking about. His son Franklin was a cigarette-smoking, alcohol-drinking,

motorcycle-racing, head-strong rebel who had no interest in giving up his lifestyle for Christ. In fact, his behavior got him expelled from a Christian college.

Billy and Ruth Graham spent many hours praying for Franklin. In his biography, *Rebel With a Cause*, Franklin recalls one incident where his anguished mother told him “Franklin I’m praying that the Lord will do something to get your attention—break a leg or put you in the hospital. I have prayed ‘Lord don’t kill him, but do whatever it takes to get his attention.’”

However distressed Ruth Graham was, the Lord answered her fervent prayers. God got Franklin’s attention (without injury), and he committed his life to Christ at age 22.

So what can you do about your loved ones—not only children and grandchildren, but parents, siblings, and others—who walk by the ways of the world, instead of the ways of Jesus Christ?

Billy Graham says the most important thing is simply refusing to give up on them, no matter what they say or do. After that, he adds, we are to set the example “of Bible reading, of prayer, of integrity, of truthfulness, of honesty.”

This can be difficult to do consistently. So begin by praying for yourself—for God’s help in making prayer a priority, for wisdom and discernment in how you live your life, for how you deal with your unsaved loved ones, and for a spirit of forgiveness when they do or say things that are un-Christian. As you do that, invite others to pray with you. It will encourage you and bring consistency to your prayer times.

How you can pray for those you love who haven’t yet committed their lives to Christ?

### Ask God to:

- provide them with His wisdom before they make potentially destructive life choices
- make them listen to you or other Godly people wanting to gently speak the Truth into their lives
- protect their hearts, minds, and bodies when they make unwise decisions
- destroy the enemy’s influence in their lives, particularly if you are aware of temptations imprisoning them (even if they don’t know it)
- bring mature believers into their lives, and empower those people to be effective, compassionate ambassadors for Christ
- open their minds and hearts to the truth of the Good News, because “*by this gospel you are saved*” (1 Corinthians 15:2, NIV)

by this **GOSPEL YOU** are **SAVED.**

—1 Corinthians 15:2, NIV