

1959 THE BIG EVENTS OF 1959!

January 29: Walt Disney releases *Sleeping Beauty*

February 3: A chartered plane transporting musicians Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper goes down in foggy conditions near Clear Lake, Iowa, killing all 4 occupants on board



February 16: Fidel Castro becomes Premier of Cuba

March 9: The Barbie Doll debuts



May 28: Two monkeys, Able and Miss Baker are the first living beings to successfully return to Earth from space aboard the flight Jupiter AM-18



August 26: The original Mini is launched

November 18: *Ben-Hur* released. It eventually wins 11 Academy Awards



...and THE BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE



Mr. Graham has preached the Gospel to more people in live audiences than anyone else in history—nearly 215 million people in more than 185 countries and territories—through various meetings, including Mission World and Global Mission. Hundreds of millions more have been reached through television, video, film, and webcasts.

Since the 1949 Los Angeles crusade vaulted Mr. Graham into the public eye and international prominence, he has led hundreds of thousands of individuals to make personal decisions to live for Christ, which is the main thrust of his ministry.¹

In 1959 Billy Graham came to Sydney for the first time and held a huge Crusade to which many people came and at which many people became Christians. Further Crusades followed in 1968 and 1979.

Many of our churches are still supported by people who became Christians through the ministry of Billy Graham and his team. Given that it is 50 years since the first crusade, it is a good time for us to gather together and reflect back on those times of numerous conversions, in thanksgiving and praise to God. It is also a good time for us to pray for the ongoing work of gospel outreach in our city and beyond.

Resources:

¹ <http://www.billygraham.org/mediaRelations/bios.asp?p=1>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1959>

Celebrating 50 years of Australian crusades

**2.00pm
Saturday
9th May 2009**

**St Andrew's Cathedral
Corner George & Bathurst Streets**

"My one purpose in life is to help people find a personal relationship with God, which, I believe, comes through knowing Christ." --Billy Graham