



“I feel the church, the body, is desperate for revival, desperate for getting back to God. ... My prayer is we'll discard the sin, get right and fill ourselves up with love.”

— Anne Morrow Graham Lotz

Getting to know God

Ministry seeks deepened faith, strengthened women

By Jeannine F. Hunter • News-Sentinel staff writer

RALEIGH, N.C. — The pews are mission fields, filled with the wounded who are battle-scarred from issues ranging from sexism to materialism to depression.

“The church is you, me, Christ who lives within us,” says Anne Morrow Graham Lotz, sitting in the headquarters of AnGEL Ministries. “Someone said it’s not an organization but an organism, living and forming.”



Key Arthur

“I feel the church, the body, is desperate for revival, desperate for getting back to God,” she says. “When Jesus is lifted up, and we’re in His presence, we have to get right. My prayer is we’ll discard the sin, get right and fill ourselves up with love.”

Reaching beyond walls and comfort zones to touch broken people is what Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham, seeks to do in her ministry and in five upcoming revivals, “Just Give Me Jesus.” The first will be in Knoxville Friday and Saturday, April 28-29, at the University of Tennessee’s Thompson-Boling Arena. Other revivals will be in Dallas/Fort Worth; Kansas City, Mo.; San Diego; and Atlanta.



Key Arthur

The revivals and Lotz’s forthcoming book of the same name aim to reach people in an open way. The revivals are free of charge, and an offering will be taken.

Recently, Lotz sat down with her assistant, Helen George, and Knoxville revival committee members Betsy Child and Ann Furrow in her office for AnGEL Ministries (the capital letters are her initials), on the fourth floor of Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh. The more than 2,000-member church is in an old hotel. Its worship center once was a convention hall.



Jill Briscoe

Lotz, a former full-time homemaker and mother of three adult children, will be one of three speakers at the revival. The others will be Key Arthur and Jill Briscoe. The worship leader will be singer Fernando Ortega. The Knoxville revival will differ from the others because it will also feature the Brooklyn Tabernacle Singers.

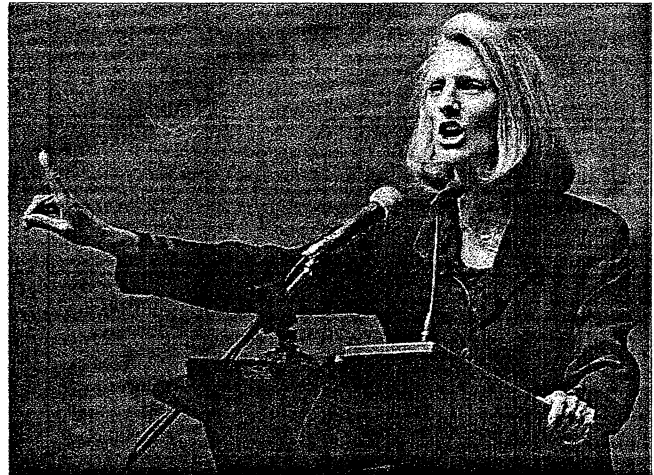


Fernando Ortega

Growing up spiritually

Considered one of the leading biblical teachers and speakers in the world, Lotz is the second-oldest daughter of Billy and Ruth Graham. Lotz and her four siblings all are involved with Christian ministries.

Please see LOTZ, page E2



Anne Morrow Graham Lotz, once a Bible Study Fellowship leader, is now a speaker of international renown.

Photo: Bob photo

ABOUT THE REVIVAL

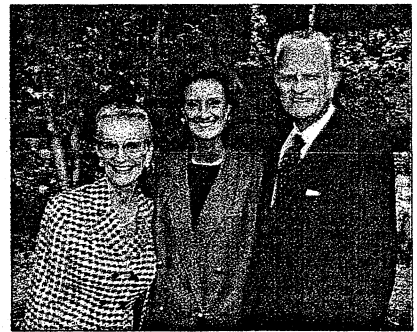
The “Just Give Me Jesus” revival will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, April 28, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. at Thompson-Boling Arena.

On Saturday, April 29, the doors of the arena will open at 6:45 a.m., and the program will begin at 8 a.m.

Attendees are asked to bring their Bibles.

No tickets or registration are required. An offering will be received.

Tickets for groups of 20 or more people may be obtained by calling the “Just Give Me Jesus” office at 1-865-540-1717, or by e-mail at justgivejesus@aol.com.



Anne Morrow Graham Lotz with her parents, Ruth and evangelist Billy Graham.

Revival designer knew Knoxville could feed spiritual hunger

By Jeannine F. Hunter
News-Sentinel staff writer

RALEIGH, N.C. — “Igniting a grand love affair with God” is being planned in five U.S. cities.

In each city, committees composed mostly of women have been established to mobilize volunteers, financial backers and other support systems for the five free-of-charge revivals, “Just Give Me Jesus.”

Knoxville will be the inaugural city for the “Just Give Me Jesus” revivals. Co-chairwomen of the Knoxville event, also known as the Mid-South Revival, are Ann Furrow, Dee Haslam and Donna Cobbles.

AnGEL Ministries, Anne Morrow Lotz’s nonprofit organization based in Raleigh, N.C., developed the program.

Lotz will bring her message to the Thompson-Boling Arena on Friday and Saturday, April 28-29.

“When you talk about igniting a relationship with Jesus, I want these women to fall in love with God,” Lotz says. “It’s the most thrilling relationship you can ever conceive.”

To help revival-goers in their religious growth, Bible study groups will be in place to meet seven to eight weeks. The aim is for everyone to find each a study group within 20 minutes of their home.

The effort is not bound by denomina-

tional or geographical differences, extending into Chattanooga and toward the state line.

Women have done the lion’s share of the organizing and will be the featured speakers, although husbands, sons and male co-workers have helped with preparations.

Men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Lotz, often an invited speaker at conferences, felt compelled to organize such a program after observing that some women-oriented programs were falling short.

Lotz says she sensed women still hungered for the basics.

“I called Ann (Furrow) because I knew she had experience in organizing big things,” Lotz says of her longtime friend. They met and came to know each other after their children, then college-age, became friends.

Furrow, whose participation in community, civil and religious events spans decades, acknowledged that Knoxville is not immune to spiritual hunger.

“There are so many people who are hungry here for a relationship with Jesus,” says Furrow, her eyes filling with tears. “It is the passion of all of our hearts to reach people.”

Lotz, also teary-eyed, says, “He used my heart’s cry and opened my eyes to other women who share that heart’s cry. He has connected me

“There are so many people who are hungry here for a relationship with Jesus. It is the passion of all of our hearts to reach people.”

— Ann Furrow
Co-chair of Mid-South Revival

with people who can reach those women whom I may not know.”

Furrow says she thought it would be a wonderful idea to have a revival in Knoxville.

Like Lotz, who began teaching Bible Study Fellowship when few volunteered to do so, Furrow realized she would have to step up and get the ball rolling.

“When we look back on this, we will see the body of Christ working together and recognize it as one of

the most meaningful occurrences in our lives,” Furrow says.

Knoxville revival committee member Betsy Child echoes Furrow’s sentiment. “It is special to be able to have the true anchor in your life regardless of anything else,” she says.

In Knoxville, workers are training to be prayer counselors and Bible study group leaders.

Others are coordinating with Christian book vendors and meeting charities to stock tables and to provide makeshift bookstores at the revival site.

Many in the community have committed to written and e-mail prayer lists that connect organizers in the five revival cities: Knoxville; Dallas-Fort Worth; Kansas City, Mo.; San Diego, and Atlanta.

To jump-start the spirit of the revival, there was a prayer rally March 9 at Knoxville’s Calvary Baptist Church.

It featured speaker Beth Evans, who has conducted seminars at the Billy Graham Training Center. She has led Bible study groups in Raleigh for seven years.

Evans challenged people to recognize that one faithful person can make a great impact. She also challenged people to pray for the revival and suggested people list others they would like to invite, placing the one

least likely to attend at the top of the list.

Community Evangelistic Church member Evelyn Jack sang during the rally. She was accompanied by church musician John Jackson, drummer Alonzo Lewis and guitarist Tyson Jordan. Others on the program were Teresa Mitchell and Mary Brock, both from Nashville.

In the opening prayer, the Rev. Sharon Welch, pastor of New Living Faith Community Church and co-chair of the Knoxville revival’s prayer committee, thanked God for the area to have “this opportunity to affect the body of Christ.”

Later, Welch suggested prayer lists to provide people on the prayer lists with fellowship before the revival.

Dell Lawler remarked that it was humbling to ask companies and individuals to help and receive no refusal.

Volunteers are needed to process correspondence set to be sent to ministers, church groups and other organizations within a three-hour radius. In addition, volunteers are sought to operate the bookstore and serve as ushers and greeters.

Jeannine F. Hunter may be reached at 865-342-6324 or hunter@knews.com.

FROM PAGE ONE

Lotz

Continued from page E1

Her father says he regards her as the family's best preacher and turns to her when he needs help with his sermons.

Not an ordained minister, she doesn't call herself a "preacher" and never had plans to preach.

She says her father is a gifted religious leader, but she finds they have different paths toward the same goal. "I try to make the distinction when it comes up," she says. "My father is an evangelist who seeks to reach people who do not know God. I am an expositor who seeks those who know God to go deeper."

With a lit of humor in her voice, she adds, "He's like the obstetrician, and I am the pediatrician."

In 1976, Lotz volunteered to lead a weekly "Bible Study Fellowship" teaching series. The first class had 300 women. It soon drew 500 women. Teaching was exciting yet terrifying to Lotz, she recalls.

Relating the Bible to others

Lotz tries to relate the Bible to how the average person lives.

In 1988, she established AnGel Ministries, through which she gives presentations, produces tapes and publishes books. She offers study guides, a teaching tape series and a twice-weekly newsletter. The ministry developed and will present the program for the "Just Give Me Jesus" revivals. After the revivals, a network of study groups will continue the fellowship and search within the Bible.

For the revival, local committees garnered organizational and financial support. Lotz acknowledges there are risks in preparing such a large revival effort.

"I've put myself on the line because I may destroy my credibility," she says, "but I have comfort because I feel God has called me."

A self-described risk-taker, Lotz says, "Financially, we're over our heads. My ministry is small but effective in our efforts."

She wants revival attendees to see the person, not just a pastor. "I want each person to have a fresh encounter with Jesus," she says. "I want every single person to encounter Him through the Word and song."

As she speaks, her striking azure eyes

sparkle. She uses a tone and cadence seasoned after years of barnstorming and dispensing healing words for wounded souls.

Lotz says people are tired of living superficial lives. Being robotic or routine without feeling, she says, deadens the spirit.

Sharing her personal life

Lotz shared how her love relationship began with Jesus one Easter Sunday as she, then age 7 or 8, watched "The King of Kings," a black-and-white Cecil B. DeMille film, on television.

Her mother noticed her weeping and prayed with her.

At 18, she married Dan Lotz, a dentist and former University of North Carolina basketball player who had started a small chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes on campus. They have three children: a son, Jonathan, and two daughters, Marrow and Rachel-Ruth.

Depression, miscarriages and feelings of inadequacy about living up to traditions of her family heritage plagued her early married life.

In her soon-to-be-released book, "Just Give Me Jesus," Lotz also shares how, as a young woman, she drifted from God. "I didn't drift intentionally or willfully but just became I was busy and distracted by all the responsibilities that were mine," she writes. "I was immersed in small talk and small and small children and smudged, sticky fingerprints. One day I lost my patience with my only child. I was shocked to realize, like Mary, that I never have taken my Lord Jesus, and I don't know where they have put Him. I had become so preoccupied with my family, so wrapped up in myself, that I had neglected my relationship with Him, and I sensed as though He had become lost to me."

"As I cried out with an overwhelming feeling of homesickness for God, He caused me to see others who, for various reasons, were in the same predicament," she writes. "I saw friends and neighbors who seemed to have it together on the outside, but I questioned their serenity on the inside. I wondered if they felt the Lord was lost to them, too."

Since then, her relationship with Jesus has grown.

Lotz was the only woman to be a plenary speaker at the International Congress of Homebased Evangelists in Amsterdam in 1983 and 1986, at the School of Evangelism in Moscow in 1991,



Anne and Dan Lotz with their children and spouses. From left are Steven Retzmeier, and Alicia and Jonathan Lotz.

and at the Global Christian Workers Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1995.

She has been the featured speaker at conferences, seminars, churches and universities on every continent except Antarctica. In 1991, Anne received an honorary doctorate of humanities from King College. She also serves on the board of directors for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Seeking the basics

"In this new century (and) new millennium it would be worth our while as mothers (and) women to come back to the basics," she says.

Lotz gives an example of getting back to the basics with a story of how years ago at a nearby shopping center a parking deck collapsed one night and left a large hole. The cause was a defect in a steel rod inside a concrete column.

"We must examine the beams that hold our lives erect. If there is a weakness and storm, or any other disturbance comes, how would we stand?" she says. "I feel we have to examine our structures... Encompassed in that is the time we spend in prayer, reading our Bibles (and) spending time with our children and other Christians."

"We need to teach our children what is success in God's eyes. I feel as women, we should look at the foundation we're building for our lives and our children."

Like many women, Lotz has grappled with issues of self-reflection, self-doubt, and often self-denial in a quest to be the ideal woman in Proverbs 31:10-31.

In the search for nourishing words from God, Lotz says, she turns to the Bible daily. She prays on her knees before dawn.

"I feel like I need to be in the Scripture every day," she says. "God's word is fresh. God's word has to be gathered fresh. Every day I am receiving fresh manna."

In thinking about who is the most important man in the world, President Bill Clinton and other politicians and luminaries pale in comparison to Jesus' impact, she says.

"Jesus is the most important man in the universe," she says. "When you wrap yourself around Him who is so important and His love is so important, that's where I find my value, my self-worth. Jesus is the God-man who'd leave heaven to ransom me," she says, smiling broadly. "You can't find so infinite when the king of Heaven gave His life for you."

Of Knoxville's Purrow, a personal friend, and support staff for the revivals,

Lotz says, "There's no way without their invitation and support would I venture to Knoxville and around the country."

Being Billy Graham's daughter hasn't meant a smooth road for Lotz and her ministry, although resistance has subsided as her ministry grows.

"Once in a while I've been uninvited or treated differently," she says. "At least I hope I have a hearing."

About nine years ago at a ministers' conference, several men turned their backs to her as she spoke.

However, she tells how one pastor's perception of her thawed after he listened to her message.

"He said to me, Ms. Lotz, you're a waitress. You've gone to into the kitchen, got the food and didn't mess it up," Lotz says, chuckling. "I was tickled, but I see myself as the cook."

She and the other women in her office laugh heartily.

She says she is content as a "Bible expositor," not a senior pastor, but she doesn't argue with the calling of other women.

After the Resurrection, two women had seen the risen Christ and were told to tell the men their testimony," Lotz says, later adding that the Great Commission was issued to men and women.

She says she has been called to do what she is doing, and if a man in the audience is led by her, he needs to search within himself.

"God's Word is not male or female. It's for all of us," she says. "Once I settled with the Lord and confirmed that I was commissioned, then it's their problem."

"I can preach and teach with authority even if I shouldn't have authority," Jesus, not the senior pastor, holds the keys, she says.

Be they homemakers or corporate executives, many women share the same hunger, Lotz says.

"In the 1970s, women were told fulfillment was outside the home," Lotz says. "In the '80s, women were told they could have the career and the home. In the '90s, women were still juggling both, but none of it was satisfying."

"Women are looking for fulfillment and satisfaction and a reason for living," she says. "You find it in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As people, we were created to be plugged into God."

Jeannine F. Hunter may be reached at 865-346-6204 or hunter@news.com.

Local poetry contests offer cash prizes

Libba Moore Gray Poetry Prize

The Knoxville Writers' Guild is accepting entries for the 2000 Libba Moore Gray Poetry Prize in memory of the late poet and children's author.

First prize is \$250; second prize, \$150; and third, \$75.

Deadline is Sunday, April 30. Tennessee writers 18 and older can enter from one to three unpublished poems for an entry fee of \$10. Each additional entry of one to three poems is \$10.

Members of the guild can submit one entry (three poems) free. Each additional entry of from one to three poems will cost \$10.

Board members are ineligible.

Entries should have a cover page, which contains the author's name, address, phone number and poem titles. No names should appear on the poems themselves.

Make check payable to the Knoxville Writers' Guild, and send entries to Linda Parsons Marion, 2909 Fountain Park Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37917.

Entries will be judged by Linda Parsons Marion and Jeff Daniel Marion. Only winners will be notified.

Membership in the guild is \$20 per year, \$15 for students.

For more information about the contest, contact Linda Marion at 622-8616 in the evening.

American Pen Women

The Knoxville branch of the National League of American Pen Women is sponsoring a poetry contest.

Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places.

There is a \$3 entry fee for the first poem and \$2 for each additional entry.

Each entry must be typed, titled and limited to one page. Name, address, phone number and title of work should be included on a separate card.

Entries should be mailed to Alice Clayton, NLAWP Knoxville Contest, 3834 Lakecrest Dr., Lenoir City, TN 37772. Deadline is April 15.

ASTROGRAPH

By Bernice Bede Osol

Newspaper Enterprises Association

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It's impossible today that you don't receive thinking, or it could hamper your chances for success. Keep an open mind, not just with your ideas, but about the thoughts of others as well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Should someone want to make some changes involving an endeavor you're both working on, go along with the change, even if it is authored by another.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) In your relationships with others today, what will help you the most is your cooperation. What you're willing to do for them, they, in turn, will be willing to do for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If you've been under a lot of pressure or stress lately, try to find time today to do something relaxing or fun. Constructive relaxation comes out of gratification.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If you find you have a need to express your urges today in ways that stimulate your personality, involve yourself in social activities where you can express your feelings and with whom you know you share.

VIROO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Focus in the type of results you desire today. You're active in a matter that's important to your mind. Once you fix in on a target,

the results will follow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Use this day to clear up any old correspondence and make those phone calls you've been putting off. You'll find the mental exercise very stimulating.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) The best of bargains for which you're looking are out there today, so if there is anything in particular you've been wanting to purchase, now might be the time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Personal freedom and mobility are always of paramount importance to you, especially today. Avoid activities and people who stifle your independence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Avoid thinking only about yourself and what you need to get done today. What will give you feelings of fulfillment and worth is that which you do for others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Try something new today where you can meet and make friends. The change in scenery and mingling with people will refresh thoughts you do much to replenish your mind.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Don't be surprised if even people who you feel are a bit standoffish orbit around you here today. Your popularity is at a high point. Call The News-Sentinel InfoLink horoscope at 675-2020 (Code 8319).

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby: I am a Planned Parenthood speaker with a serious problem. I am writing in the hope that you can help me dispel the myth that Mountain Dew soft drinks prevent pregnancy. I have been working to dispel this myth for about two years - and it seems I'm paddling upstream.

When I first realized that many students from fifth grade through college fervently believe that drinking Mountain Dew reduces the sperm count, I prayed that this was a local issue. I now know that this myth has circulated and is believed nationwide.

During my years as a volunteer with Planned Parenthood, I have encountered several myths, but none as potentially dangerous or difficult to dispel as the myth associated with this popular soft drink.

Young people continue to obtain information largely from their peers - a very unreliable source.

You have often reminded your readers about birth-control education presented by Planned Parenthood.

Please take this opportunity to issue that reminder again and to alert parents and teens that Mountain Dew, while tasty, does not prevent pregnancy.

Marjorie Saltzman Portland, Ore.

Dear Marjorie: Your letter is a first! Years ago a rumor circulated that douching with Coca-Cola after sex would prevent pregnancy. That, too, was a myth - as many glibly "premature parents" discovered to their dismay.

Let me go on record as stating that Mountain Dew - although a refreshing and enjoyable beverage - is NOT A CONTRACEPTIVE. It may give the drinker a "buzz" because of its sugar and caffeine content, but it will do NOTHING

to lower the sperm count. To allege such is incorrect and irresponsible.

Young adults with computer access can find reliable information regarding reproductive health issues by visiting www.teenwrite.com, a 24-hour, fully confidential Web site sponsored by Planned Parenthood. There they can find answers to questions they may feel uncomfortable asking parents, doctors - or even their peers. It includes a FAQs (frequently asked questions) section and a "Yikes!" page for teens with urgent issues.

Now I have a riddle for you: What do you call young men who drink Mountain Dew because they think it's a contraceptive? Answer: (All together now) FATHERS!

Dear Abby: In a reply to a recent letter about the devastating effects of smoking, you pledge to continue your campaign to discourage young people from starting to smoke.

Here's some help: Some 50 years ago, my Scoutmaster demonstrated what happens when you blow smoke through a white handkerchief. I'll never forget the ugly brown stain from just one strong puff.

If everyone who comes in contact with young people performed this demonstration, perhaps some of them would think twice before beginning or continuing to smoke.

John F. Glass Studio City, Calif.

Dear John: Thanks for the help. I remember seeing a similar demonstration many years ago. It was targeted at young people who had not yet started to smoke, and one look was a convincing deterrent because of the amount of tar that appeared on the handkerchief. It took no imagination to see what smoking does to the bronchial tubes and lungs.

Abigail Van Buren is a columnist for the National Press Syndicate. Letters should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69024, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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