

A message of hope

Graham: Parents must be role models

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Evangelist Billy Graham says good parents are the greatest hope for curing society's ills.

Parents can and should lead young people by example toward honesty and integrity, he said. In a society that is becoming increasingly violent, he said, strong parents and families are vital to implementing social change.

"I think the greatest need that we have in the country right now is for parents to be role models to their children and the communi-

ty," Graham said.

For an in-depth look at the Billy Graham Center Museum, turn to Section 5, Neighbor

Graham, 75, prescribed such social changes during an exclusive telephone interview this week from New York City.

The internationally known evangelist is returning to Wheaton today for a series of events at Wheaton College.

He is scheduled to meet with reporters this morning as he kicks off a visit to his alma mater to dedicate the college's remodeled Billy Graham Center Museum. He will cut the ribbon to re-open the museum on Friday.

Graham also is expected to speak Saturday at a memorial service in Wheaton for one of his college roommates.

In his latest book, "Storm Warning," Graham wrote that the "cult of self has become an addiction." When people place their own gratification ahead of everything else, there are no limits to what they will do, Graham

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The Rev. Billy Graham is in DuPage County today for the first of several private appearances at Wheaton College, his alma mater.

Photo courtesy Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Q: As you look back on your career, do you believe you've been successful?

A: No. I don't think I would have succeeded unless the whole world had been converted to Christ. I'm still just struggling, and I've had many failures and made a number of wrong decisions. And I don't think I'm any great success at all.

He's arguably the most successful preacher in history, yet the Rev. Billy Graham says he's fallen short of the mark. Graham shared some of his insights about his life and his work in a one-on-one session with the Daily Herald. See Page 4.

GRAHAM: Young need to be taught virtues, discipline at home

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wrote. **MAY 1 1 1994**

But during an interview with the Daily Herald, Graham pointed to Wheaton College as one of a growing number of schools across the country that want to reverse that self-absorption.

He said many of the nation's finest universities are becoming involved and he is encouraged by the trend.

"I think that Wheaton is right in line — in fact, I think Wheaton is a leader in that," Graham said.

Wheaton College shaped Graham's own views five decades ago when he was a student at the Christian college.

Graham enrolled in 1940 and graduated with a degree in anthropology in 1943.

Graham said the college broadened his perspective with its "tremendous background" on race relations. Coming from a dairy farm in North Carolina, Graham said those college years were the first in which he had ever attended school with black people.

"It was all new to me," he said. Moreover, Graham said he learned how to adapt to the cultures of other societies during

his studies in anthropology, there — never dreaming just how extensively he would travel.

"But I found that that helped me tremendously when I went all over the world," Graham said.

Wheaton College's role remains important even in today's secular society, he said.

Its emphasis on religion accurately reflects the attention that should be placed on spiritual matters, he said.

Young people need to be taught virtues that are based on the Bible, he said.

"So many of our young people today are so gun-conscious," Graham said.

"There's so many killings in schools today, and among young people, even children."

Many of the challenges facing young people stem from the lack of a strong family unit and discipline at home, he said.

He called on parents to serve as role models and to offer strong family support.

He also pointed to relationships with God and with a church as keys to healing society's ailments.

"I think it has to be turned around in the hearts of individuals," Graham said, "and the leaders of society."