

## **‘Celebration of Hope’ and HOPE 2008: Is there/was there an ‘official association’?**

Posted on our ministry website are articles concerning two upcoming initiatives – one local in Northern Ireland and the other national in the UK. The local initiative is called ‘**Celebration of Hope**’ and the national initiative is called **HOPE 2008**.

In the articles posted I have to a degree ‘interlinked’ these 2 initiatives. A brother in Christ has just contacted me and in his email he said this –

I've looked at the website for the Franklin Graham "**Celebration of Hope**" event, and on its FAQ page (<http://www.celebrationofhope.co.uk/faq.php>) they claim the following:

**Q. What is the relationship between Hope 2008 and Celebration of Hope?**

**A. Hope 2008 is a collaboration of local church outreach in different parts of the UK; there is no official association between the two organizations.**

So it doesn't appear that they are one and the same. There's plenty concerning about ‘**Celebration of Hope**’, but perhaps you could look into this and correct your article if necessary?

Why did I ‘interlink’ these two initiatives in the first place? I will give my reasons and in so doing I will leave it to you the reader to draw your own conclusions as to the veracity of the answer given above that there is ‘**no official association between the two organisations**’.

One of the important marketing tools employed today to promote some major event or initiative is an official ‘**LOGO**’. I’m sure many can remember the reaction some months ago when the very costly ‘**LOGO**’ for the 2012 Olympics to be held in London was officially unveiled. What I want to do now is to reproduce some pages from the national **HOPE 2008** website and to reproduce copies of literature distributed by the local ‘**Celebration of Hope**’ organisers. Not being a technical ‘wizard’ these reproductions are spread over quite an area in this article –

**Item 1**

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Home | About Hope | Resources | 2007 - A Year Of Preparation | 2008 - A Year Of Hope | 2009 - And Beyond Help

15 November 2007

• Login • Register

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International Comments

#### Nicky Gumbel - Alpha

HOPE2008 is bringing people and churches together, serving God More ...

#### Keith Civval - Scripture Union

Hope 2008 will be a wonderful context in which churches can More ...

#### Mark Russell - Chief Executive of Church Army

Hope08 is an amazing opportunity, for Christians across the land More ...

#### Joel Edwards - General Director of Evangelical Alliance

Hope 2008 will be an excellent example of how the UK church More ...

#### Fran Beckett OBE - CEO of Church Urban Fund

Hope 2008 has great potential as a catalyst for grassroots More ...

#### Pete Greig - founder of 24-7 Prayer

What a brilliant More ...

Item 2

# Hope 2008 : Hope in Ireland



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15 November 2007

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[Wales \(Gobaith 2008\)](#)

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## Item 3

# Franklin Graham Celebration of **HOPE**



Inviting people to become followers of Jesus

You and your church leadership  
are invited to the  
official opening launch in

**The Octagon,  
King's Hall Complex, Belfast**

on

**Wednesday 19th September 2007**

at

**10:30am**

Hear of plans for this event and how your  
church can be involved in this exciting  
programme over the next 6 months.

Planned to be over at 11:40am

Tea/coffee served

Car parking in grounds

for more information visit  
[www.celebrationofhope.co.uk](http://www.celebrationofhope.co.uk)



Franklin Graham



Robin Mark



newsboys

The Odyssey Arena, Belfast ~ 4 to 6 April 2008

**HOPE** 2008

in cooperation with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Franklin Graham  
Celebration of  
**HOPE**



Inviting people to become followers of Jesus

Dear Christian Colleagues,

Many of you have prayed and worked with us over the last few years, others are hearing for the first time about this exciting event.

Whichever category you are in, we want to extend a very warm welcome to you, to come to the official launch of the Franklin Graham Celebration of Hope 2008 - the aim of which is to invite people to become followers of Jesus.

Dr. Herb McCarthy, Vice President - Crusades Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, will be coming over to respond to the invitation of local churches to Franklin, son of well known evangelist Billy Graham, to come and conduct a Festival in the Odyssey Arena, 4th - 6th April 2008.

Many of the plans for the Festival are falling into place and as well as introducing some of the key Festival leaders we want to tell you what is happening and explain how you and your church can be specifically involved in what we pray God is going to do in our land.

This is not just a Festival for a few days but, DV, a work of God which will be rooted and grounded in local churches. Local churches are the key. They will become involved in praying and reaching out to their friends and neighbours, counselling at the Festival - as the 'Operation Andrew' and 'Christian Life and Witness Classes' are set in place across the country. Nor will the work finish when the Festival closes but will continue in local churches for years to come as churches care for, nurture and follow up those they have seen come to faith in Christ.

The launch is one step in this exciting adventure in which we have already seen the Lord's hand in so many ways. The autumn and next year are filled with more milestones. We really would love you to join us on the 19th September.

On behalf of the Festival Committee

Bill Holloway  
Secretary

114a Holywood Road, BELFAST BT4 1NU E: [info@celebrationofhope.co.uk](mailto:info@celebrationofhope.co.uk)

Up to date information available at [www.celebrationofhope.co.uk](http://www.celebrationofhope.co.uk)

HOPE 2008

in cooperation with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

The first two items are from the national **HOPE 2008** website and the last two images are items of literature issued by the local **Celebration of Hope** organisers. I'm sure it will not have escaped your notice that on each image there is a very distinct **HOPE 2008 'LOGO'**. - A red **H**, a black **O**, a white **P** in a blue circle, a yellow **E** in a black rectangle followed by an equally distinctive bold font **2008**. If these two organisations/initiatives have '**no official association**' then why are their promotional materials 'sporting' the same very distinct '**LOGO**'?

In my articles on our ministry website I made reference to an advert that appeared in the Belfast Telegraph on 15th September 2007 announcing the official launch of the

local '**Celebration of Hope**' initiative at the Kings Hall Complex, Belfast. At the foot of the advert, for all to see, was the very distinct **HOPE 2008 'LOGO.'** In my article on the national **HOPE 2008** initiative I listed the members of the '**Board of Reference**' and one of those serving on that '**Board**' is **Joel Edwards, General Director of Evangelical Alliance.** In my article on the '**Ecumenical-friendly Basis of Faith**' I wrote this – "*In my earlier article I noted the involvement of **Evangelical Alliance** through their **General director, Joel Edwards** being listed as a member of the **HOPE 2008 Board of reference.** Locally here the Northern Ireland 'branch' of Evangelical Alliance has been to the fore in the planning of some of these liberal, pseudo evangelical events [such as Kingdom Come in early 2006]. Their input to **HOPE 2008** is identified on the local [Northern Ireland] website where the main article encouraging support for **HOPE 2008** is signed off by*

**Stephen Cave**  
**National Director Evangelical Alliance**  
**Vice-chair Celebration of Hope**

**I recognise now that the portion underlined should have been more accurately phrased 'Their input to **Celebration of Hope** is identified on the local [Northern Ireland] website where the main article encouraging support for **Celebration of Hope** is signed off by**

**Stephen Cave**  
**National Director Evangelical Alliance**  
**Vice-chair Celebration of Hope**

That aside, what is interesting is that at today's date [15 November 2007] '*the main article encouraging support for **Celebration of Hope***' and that was signed off by **Stephen Cave** is no longer on the **Celebration of Hope** website. It is still however posted on the Northern Ireland website of **Evangelical Alliance** on <http://www.eauk.org/northern-ireland/reach/> and this is what it says –

#### **Celebration of Hope**

Who would have thought it? A genuine power-sharing government in Northern Ireland with the two most intractable parties - or so it seemed - now working together for the good of all! Of course we still have a long way to go but the initial signs are hopeful, including a peaceful conclusion to the usually tense 'marching season'. There is a new wind blowing and certainly a new sense of hope that at long last we are putting the worst of the past behind us and moving into a new future. What better time then, for us in NI to have a **Celebration of Hope** that goes way beyond a political settlement for this small country; an opportunity for Christians to stand together and speak out the eternal hope found in the Good News of Jesus Christ?

The Odyssey Arena in Belfast has been booked in April 2008 for that very purpose - a **Celebration of Hope**. Over 3 evenings Franklin Graham - son of Billy Graham - will bring the good news of the hope to be found in Jesus Christ, supported by Robin Mark, The Newsboys and other well known artists. But these events are just a small fraction of what **Celebration of Hope** is all about. There will be months of preparation, with churches coming together to mobilise Christians to pray for friends to come to know Jesus, and courses designed to help Christians understand and share their faith better, and following the April programme, churches will be engaged in follow-up and discipleship with those who have taken steps of faith. For more information on **Celebration of Hope** contact the office on 028 9022 0862 or [click here](#) to go onto the website!

**Stephen Cave**  
**National Director**

One has to wonder why the hitherto clear involvement of **Evangelical Alliance [NI]** in the promotion of **Celebration of Hope**, an initiative linked with **Franklin Graham** of

the **Billy Graham Evangelistic Association [BGEA]** has been downplayed almost to the point of extinction on the official **Celebration of Hope** website.

Such distancing of **EA [NI]** from this event involving the **BGEA** seems all the more strange in the light of this current posting on the website of **EA [NI]** –

<http://www.eauk.org/northern-ireland/specialprojects/kingdom-come.cfm>

### **Kingdom Come... more than words**



**Kingdom Come... more than words:** An event for Christians with a heart for Ireland  
**Kingdom Come... more than words**, ended on 2 February 2006.

This was a joint initiative of **Evangelical Alliance** and the **Billy Graham Evangelistic Association** steered by senior church leaders from a range of denominations. If you want to see what you missed out on please go to [www.kingdomcomeireland.com](http://www.kingdomcomeireland.com). The main talks and stream plenaries were recorded throughout the event and copies can be obtained by contacting EMS Audio Ltd on 028 9127 4411 [A Northern Ireland number].

Perhaps it was felt that local evangelicals might not be too keen to support an initiative, **Celebration of Hope**, that had an '**official association**' with a national initiative [**HOPE 2008**], that for its part had ecumenical support at the highest ecclesiastical level [Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor], that had active support/involvement from the General Director of Evangelical Alliance [Joel Edwards] and that was being 'fronted' locally for promotional purposes by the Northern Ireland Director of Evangelical Alliance, Stephen Cave.

'Is there /was there' an '**official association**' between **Celebration of Hope** and **HOPE 2008**? – the official 'party line' on the website of **Celebration of Hope** says that '**there is no official association between the two organizations**'. In the light of what I have shared in this article perhaps the issue is not just as 'clear-cut' as that denial claims.

We should never forget the previous 'shady' dealings that took place between **CARE [NI]** and **Evangelical Alliance [NI]** as they sought to involve so-called '**Evangelical Catholics**' in their 'evangelistic' '**Passion Movie Café**' outreach in Central Belfast. In the article that I wrote about that sorry episode <http://www.takeheed.info/the-hidden-agendas-of-care-and-evangelical-alliance-ni/> I wrote [and still stand over] –

**"Information that is now in my possession shows that there was no 'naïveté' on the part of Hugh Marcus [of CARE] but rather this was a calculated strategy and 'agenda' on the part of both Hugh Marcus and Stephen Cave [of Evangelical Alliance] and their aim was to keep their hopes for 'Evangelical Catholic' involvement hidden from the public"**

In closing, let me just point out that sadly, where Franklin Graham is concerned, he is adopting the same ecumenical view of the Papacy that his father held as this website posting clearly shows –

**BILLY AND FRANKLIN GRAHAM PRAISE POPE;  
FRANKLIN SAYS THEY PREACH SAME GOSPEL.**

Friday Church News Notes, April 8, 2005

Fundamental Baptist Information Service, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org) [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org)

**Billy Graham called Pope John Paul II “unquestionably the most influential voice for morality and peace in the world during the last 100 years” (“Graham remembers pope’s warmth, courage,” *Winston-Salem Journal* (N.C.), April 2).**

**In an interview with Katie Couric on NBC television, Franklin Graham also praised the Pope and claimed that they preach the same gospel. He said: “We disagree on a lot of doctrinal issues and I guess those disagreements will always be there. At the same time we did agree on the fundamentals that Jesus Christ is the son of the living God who came to this earth to die for our sins and when he died on that cross and shed his blood he took the sins of the world with him on the cross; and if we confess our sins and repent and by faith receive Christ into our hearts God will forgive us and cleanse us. These are fundamentals of the faith we agreed on and support and we appreciate this man and the stand he has taken on so many of these moral issues.”**

Regrettably when it comes to unscriptural co-operation with the false Roman Catholic system headed up by The Papacy, where Franklin Graham is concerned, it appears to be a sorry case/example of the old adage – ‘like father, like son’.

**Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 15 November 2007**