

Christian Coalition of Washington

Educating and Activating Christians for Social, Political, and Spiritual Action

July 2018

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he's COMING AGAIN!

The Decision America Pacific Northwest Tour begins this week

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard. And how are they to hear without someone preaching? --Romans 10:14

Yes, JESUS the *Christ*, the SON OF GOD, is coming again. And we hope it will be very soon. But, in this instance, we are speaking of the Reverend Franklin Graham and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association team (BGEA) who will minister in seven key cities in the Pacific Northwest beginning August 1 in Medford, OR, and concluding August 13 in Monroe, WA.

Based upon what we witnessed during Franklin's stops in all 50 state capitols in 2016, these events, coupled with earnest on-going prayer and actively supportive local congregations, hundreds or maybe thousands of hardened-hearts could be softened and introduced to the KING of kings.

Called the *Decision America Pacific Northwest Tour*, the BGEA web site observes that...

"Natural beauty is abundant and diverse in America's Pacific Northwest. Soaring redwoods. Rocky coasts. Snowcapped mountains. It's God's grand design, but many living there are inspired by nature itself and not its Creator... The Tour with Franklin Graham will point to the majesty of Jesus Christ. Each of the seven evangelistic prayer events will navigate through the spiritually dry landscape in Oregon and Washington." ¹

Steve Rhoads, vice president of BGEA's church ministry team says "It is a firewall of secularism on the West Coast, and we want to pierce it, go right through it with the Gospel..." *ibid*

Referring to an ideological blue wall, Rhoads adds that it isn't about Democrat vs. Republican, but secular values. He says "The tour doesn't have anything to do with politics. What it does have to do with is Christian activism." *ibid*

"The culture tends to put pressure on Christians to retreat and to be quiet inside the walls of the [church] building," Rhoads explains. "We have to say, 'No, we will not do this. We'll be kind and generous but we're going to be outspoken and we're going to be involved.'"

Rhoads believes our public schools are battlefronts for a larger spiritual battle. He says at the one-day *Decision America* events, Franklin Graham will urge Christians to get involved in their local, state and national government—including their community school board. He adds that this "is especially important in Oregon and Washington, where moral battles in schools have included controversial sex education programs, gender identity curriculum and the addition of a transgender book in a popular reading competition." *ibid*

"It's our responsibility," says Rhoads, "to push back against these [pursuits] and say, 'Nope. Not in my community.' We have that right and we have that obligation as Christians." *ibid*

Those of us who draw breath on the ‘Left Coast,’ can’t argue with others who suggest our ‘environs’ are second only to New England in terms of non-religious people. According to a 2017 Gallup poll, 43 percent of Pacific Northwesterners aren’t in the least religious.

“It’s hard out there,” says Rhoads. “It’s hard ground. Very secular, very anti-God. A lot of resistance to the Gospel and to Biblical values...”

Several years ago, the Christian Coalition of Washington had the opportunity to organize a tour of the “Seven Churches of the Apocalypse” in western Turkey. During our travels, we were reminded, again and again, that forces that came against the local church as chronicled in The Book of Revelation—chapters two and three, are still very much at work in our culture today. According to annotations in The ESV Bible;

“...churches were threatened by false teachings (such as that of the Nicolaitans 2:6, 15), by persecution (2:10, 13), by compromise with surrounding paganism through idolatry and immorality (2:14, 20-21), and by spiritual complacency (3:1-3, 15-17).

Jesus sent his revelation to John to fortify his churches to resist the wiles of the devil, whether in the form of intimidating violence (the beast), deceptive heresy (the false prophet), or beguiling affluence (the prostitute).”

Although the so-called “post-modern church” in many ways eschews controversy or confrontation, the BGEA consistently runs to the battle. The *Decision America Pacific Northwest Tour* is a **call to action**; that’s why it’s called *Decision*. It’s a call to Christians to be prayerful and active, and a call to unbelievers to get right with God.”

Following many months of fasting, prayer, and arduous planning sessions, we are pleased to report that hundreds of churches are partnering with the BGEA to introduce the *Name of the LORD* to our families, friends, and neighbors in the Pacific Northwest—BEGINNING THIS VERY WEEK!

The *Decision America Pacific Northwest Tour* opens first in Oregon and next week in Washington. ALL events will start promptly at 7:30PM in the following locals:

- OREGON: **MEDFORD**—Wednesday, August 1
Bi-Mart Amphitheater at Jackson County Fairgrounds and Exposition Park, Central Point, OR
- BEND**—Friday, August 3
Life Amphitheater at Jackson County Fairgrounds and Exposition Park, 21720 US—20
- PORTLAND**—Sunday, August 5
Clackamas County Fairgrounds and Event Center, 694 NE 4th Ave (in Canby)
- WASHINGTON: **TRI-CITIES**—Tuesday, August 7
Columbia Point Marina Park
660 Columbia Point Drive, Richland, WA
- SPOKANE**—Thursday, August 9
Spokane County Fair and Expo Center, 404 N Havana St #1
- TACOMA**—Sunday, August 12
Cheney Stadium Parking Lot, 2502 S Tyler St (Enter from Clay Huntington Way)
- MONROE**—Monday, August 13
Evergreen State Fairgrounds and Speedway, 14405 – 179th Ave SE

Final thoughts: Let’s be in **prayer**. Let’s commit to **attend** a rally. Let’s **invite** someone who needs Jesus!

Rick Forcier

¹ <https://pnw.billygraham.org/>