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THANK YOU BILLY GRAHAM

America's most famous preacher, Billy Graham is about to get a major gesture of recognition from some of the world's premier entertainers.

Larry King, Bono, Pat Boone, George Strait, Faith Hill, Reba McEntire, Kenny Rogers, Michael McDonald, LeAnn Rimes, Jeffrey Osborne, Andrae Crouch, as well as TobyMac, Kevin Max and Michael Tait and others – are part of a tribute to the evangelist who celebrates his 70th anniversary as a preacher next month.

The *Thank You Billy Graham* project started as a song project a couple of years ago, but now extends to a full DVD and includes testimonials from artists and special guests thanking Billy Graham for the impact he has had on their lives.

One of these is Bono...

"At a time when religion seems so often to get in the way of God's work, with its shopping mall sales pitch and its bumper sticker reductionism, I give thanks for the sanity of Billy Graham," Bono says.

Interestingly, Ruth Graham (the youngest daughter of the famed evangelist) says Billy is living on "borrowed time".

She says her father has been hospitalised twice this past year, is hard of hearing, suffers from macular degeneration, and has little strength for day to day tasks.

She says that despite his frailties, her father is "at work on a book about old age"! Graham is 89.

POD ATTEMPTS TO REDEFINE ROCK

POD is back with its "most aggressive, yet poetic effort" to date.

The new album *When Angels & Serpents Dance* aims to "redefine what a rock album can be".

Guitarist Marcos Curiel says the new CD is an "urgent soundtrack reflecting today's urgent times".

He hopes the new album will energise fans with energetic rock anthems such as *Addicted*.

THE EYES HAVE IT!

Australia's Compliments of Gus this week releases its latest radio single *Your Eyes*.

The song from its *If This Is The End...* CD has gained strong acceptance from radio programmers around the country with several hailing it as the band's best song ever.

Your Eyes follows the band's recent singles *Not Ashamed* and *Rain Down*.

The band is currently recording its first Christmas album scheduled for release later this year.

REZFEST, A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

RezFest 08, the inaugural gospel music festival at Point Cook Homestead, drew more than 3000 people on Easter Sunday and Monday.

Organised by Wyndham City Council and Wyndham Ministers Network, the two day festival has drawn high praise from punters and artists alike.

Festival Director Lesley Rogan says she's delighted with the response.

"My voice mail and email have been overflowing with praise from punters, the music industry, the local community, churches, and police," Rogan says.

"The most common responses were how well organised the event was, how easy it was to get in and out of the homestead, plus the incredible performances from each of the artists.

"I don't think that we could have pulled a better line-up for our first festival than to have newboys, Jars Of Clay, Alabaster Box, and Planetshakers all on the same bill. It was simply amazing," she says.

Rev Paul Blacker, a member of the Wyndham Ministers Network praised the volunteer teams who gave up their Easter holiday to ensure RezFest achieved its goals.

He says that the teams worked together magnificently to create "a drug-free, alcohol-free and trouble-free event" demonstrating the unity among the local churches and the local community.

"It's a great way for Council and churches to work together to help build positive community values," Blacker asserts.

"We're committed to seeing RezFest develop into a high profile national event that has economic benefit for the city of Wyndham and significant spiritual benefit [for Christians] across the state," he says.

Greg Aplin, Wyndham City Council's Director Economic Development and Planning has hailed the two-day event a "resounding success".

"We had a particular number in our mind that we wanted to achieve, and we exceeded it on both days," Aplin says.

"The highlight for me was standing at the exit gates at the end of each night hearing people say that they can't wait to come back next year.

"We'll be looking to make it bigger, brighter and better next year," he suggests.

SMS

TobyMac and **Third Day** perform this month at a youth rally presided over by Pope Benedict XVI in New York.

Jars of Clay has released its first ever official hits compilation titled *Greatest Hits*.

Bethany Dillon has married Shane & Shane's **Shane Barnard**.