

**SAMFORD UNIVERSITY  
2005 Faculty Development Grant Application  
FORM 1**

**Applicant name: Kenneth B. E. Roxburgh**

**School: Arts and Sciences**

**Department: Religion**

**TITLE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY:**

**The Impact of the Billy Graham ‘Scotland Crusade’ on the growth and decline of Christianity in Scotland (1947-1963)**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: (500 - 700 words, titled as Brief description of Proposed Activity and attached to Form I)**

**Estimated timetable for project: January 2006 – May 2007.**

**Total cost of proposed activity: \$2,000**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chair (if applicable)

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean

**NOTE TO DEANS: Faculty members will deliver their applications, with appropriate signatures directly to the Academic Affairs Committee chairperson. You will receive a list of all faculty members and grant application titles submitted from your school. Upon receiving notification, the Committee requests assurance from each of you that applicants will be employed for the 2006-2007 academic year.**

## Form 1

### Brief description of Proposed Activity

#### **The Impact of the Billy Graham 'Scotland Crusade' to the growth/decline of Christianity in Scotland (1947-1963)**

The Billy Graham 'All Scotland' Crusade which took place in Glasgow in 1955 lasted for six weeks. For the first time, Graham conducted a mission with the official endorsement of the majority of Protestant denominations.

Following the Second World War, Scotland had been involved in the 'Tell Scotland' campaign, an evangelistic enterprise centered on the local congregation, mobilizing the laity in personal witness. The crusade had an enormous impact on the country, with a national Radio and Television broadcast, live relays to England, Ireland and Wales, and an appearance at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. A total of over a million people attended the meetings with 26,547 enquires recorded. Church memberships increased and new candidates for pastoral ministry entered theological colleges.

The figures for church adherence in Scotland indicate a steady decline from 1928-1946. From 1946-1958 the trend was reversed. It was during this period that Billy Graham first visited Scotland in 1947 and then returned in 1955 for the Glasgow Crusade. Although his visit in 1955 is well known, he preached in 360 meetings during a visit between October 1946 and March 1947, a period often overlooked in descriptions of Graham's ministry. Graham made four further transatlantic trips prior between 1947 and 1949. The period of church growth in Scotland was followed by a decline in church membership that has continued to the present.

In his book *Religion and Society in Scotland since 1707*, Calum Brown comments that 'why this surge in church connection turned quickly into decline awaits systematic enquiry.' As a Sociologist he has suggested many factors such as massive slum clearance programs and schemes of re-housing that moved large numbers of people to different parts of Scotland as well as the moral transformation of the 1960s and the growth in feminism.

Little research has been conducted from a religious perspective into the early period of growth, coinciding with the *Tell Scotland* movement and the work of Billy Graham. I intend to use archival research into the minutes of the *Tell Scotland* movement, minutes of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland as well as several presbyteries and local Presbyterian congregations which are located in the Scottish Records Office in Edinburgh. I will also examine records of other denominations including Baptist, Congregational and Episcopalian, together with their monthly periodicals and local church records. One of other sources of information will be national and local newspapers, especially the Glasgow Herald and the Scotsman.

In this way I hope to not only discover new knowledge concerning the state of religion within Scotland during this period but be able to indicate the way in which the application of such knowledge not only explains the growth and decline of the church during this period but also how this may impact our understanding of the mission of God in society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Form 2

1. Describe the relevance of your research project to current trends in your area of specialization; what is the value of your research to your area of study?

My own area of specialization is that of Christianity in Scotland and its relationship to evangelicalism and dissenting movements. I have published one monograph, nine journal articles and one essay on 'Scottish Christianity' in *The Blackwell Companion to Protestantism*.

I am especially interested in the development of Christianity in Scotland during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since the 1960s, there has been no major work on Scottish Christianity that has examined the growth, development and eventually the decline of Christianity in the country.

The work of Calum Brown in his *Religion and Society in Scotland since 1707* (1997) and *The Death of Christian Britain: understanding secularization 1800–2000* (2000) has indicated that there was an almost unprecedented growth of institutional religion in Britain between 1945 and 1958; and that secularization did not take firm root until about 1963. Brown argues that the decline, when it began in the 1960s, was due to the huge transformation of the role of women. He shows how piety had become feminized during the 19th century and that masculinity was regarded as increasingly incompatible with faith. Brown argues that the post-war resurgence of traditional family values created a climate conducive to religious revival. But the liberation of women, along with the sexual emancipation of the 1960s, led women to turn their backs on the Christian religion, with the result that many men 'no longer had to 'keep up appearances' in the pews" and this was followed by the "alienation of the next generation of children."

I am particular interested to investigate the period 1946 to 1963 through the lens of the impact of Billy Graham, who first visited Scotland in 1946-1947 as a Youth for Christ evangelist and then later led the Glasgow crusade in 1955. The latter was part of a wider movement amongst the Scottish Churches called *Tell Scotland*. As far as I am aware, no research has been conducted, using primary source material such as the minutes of the *Tell Scotland* movement, minutes of the various churches within Scotland, Church magazines and national newspapers such as the *Glasgow Herald* and the *Scotsman*, to analyze the contribution of Billy Graham to the growth of Christianity during this period and the reason why 1963 was such a crucial point in time.

The majority of the research will take place in Edinburgh where the Records of most of the major denominations such as the Church of Scotland, Free Church of Scotland, Episcopal Church and Congregational Churches are housed. The city also has the resources of the National Library of Scotland which holds copies of all books published in the United Kingdom and New College Divinity library. Baptist archives are located in Glasgow. The Billy Graham archives are currently housed in Wheaton College, Chicago and I intend to spend three or four days in their library conducting research.

I hope that the research will not only contribute to the work of the academy in terms of understanding the history of the period but may also have a contribution to the mission of the church in a society where less than 8% of the population ever enters a church building.

## Form 2

2. In terms of scholarship, assess the quality of knowledge needed for successful completion of your project and predict the thoroughness of coverage that you will achieve. What publishing value will the project have? What journals or other outlets for research might be likely to publish the work? Will it, when completed, provoke further thought and critical thinking? What further scholarship might result?

I am confident that the money provided by the faculty development grant will provide sufficient funding to begin the process of research needed to engage both primary and secondary sources for a thorough study of this period of Scottish history.

I am currently a member of the editorial board for the *Welsh Journal of Religious History* published by the University of Wales Press. The journal publishes articles on historical themes (mainly Church history) from international contributors. I have been asked to contribute an article during 2007 related to the history of the church. This does not need to be specifically related to Welsh religious history but should be of interest to the *Journal's* constituency. I am confident that an article on the impact of Billy Graham on Scottish Christianity will be, not only of interest, but value in considering the current state of Christianity in Wales.

I hope that this present study will form the basis of both looking backwards to the earlier period of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (1900-1945) as well as latter part of the century (1963-2000). The last major history of Christianity in Scotland was published by J. H. S. Burleigh in 1960, prior to the decline of Christianity in the country and almost entirely focused on the history of Presbyterianism. In a recent discussion with David W. Bebbington, Professor of History at Stirling University in Scotland, he indicated that "a book on Christianity in Scotland during the 20<sup>th</sup> century is a gap just waiting to be filled." Stewart J. Brown, Chair of Ecclesiastical History in Edinburgh University also commented that "the project on *Tell Scotland* and the Billy Graham visits to Scotland sounds very promising. It is certainly time that someone conducts serious research on this important theme."

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT BUDGET PROPOSAL  
FORM 3**

The applicant must develop and submit an itemized budget including details of estimated expenses for your proposed activity. Justifying statements would be helpful to the committee as it prioritizes applications.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Total dollar estimate</b>
<b>1. Research in the Billy Graham archives located in Wheaton College, Chicago</b>	
Flight from Birmingham to Chicago	\$250
Three nights accommodation in Chicago (Hampton Inn)	\$330
Meals for 4 days @ \$30 per day	\$120
Transport within Chicago (taxi cabs)	\$100
Extras	\$ 50
<b>Chicago trip</b>	<b>\$850</b>
<b>2. Research in Edinburgh, Scotland</b>	
Flight from Birmingham to Edinburgh, Scotland @ 09/27/05	\$940
Accommodation will be with friends in Edinburgh	
Meals for 7 days @ \$30 per day	\$210
<b>Edinburgh trip</b>	<b>\$1150</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>