

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**For Information Contact:**
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media@bgea.org**THROUGH THE PAIN OF LOSS
FAMILY PULLS TOGETHER TO BENEFIT OTHERS****Tragic Death Leads to Thousands Hearing the Gospel
Through “Dare to Be a Daniel” Ministry**

CHARLOTTE, N.C., June 27, 2006 – When tragedy strikes, a family can fall apart under the stress of the pain, or they can pull together and become closer than they’ve ever been before. The Preston Parrish family of Charlotte, N.C., faced tragedy, and their faith in Jesus Christ caused them to cling tightly to each other and to Him.

In late January, Preston and his wife, Glenda, received a phone call telling them that their 25-year-old son Nathan had died in a tragic rock climbing accident. His father Bruce Parrish Sr. of Winston-Salem had died just five days earlier. The family took comfort in knowing that both were committed Christians.

At the same time, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), where Preston is the executive vice president, was in the process of developing ministry materials to train “tweens” (age 9-14) to do the same thing that Nathan loved to do – tell others about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. This ministry, called “Dare to Be a Daniel,” uses the biblical account of the life of Daniel to show youths how to share their faith with their friends.

Before the accident, Nathan fulfilled his goal of running in San Diego’s Rock ‘N Roll Marathon in June 2005. After his death, Nathan’s running partner Stacey Hinnant contacted Preston to tell him that she intended to run the race in honor of Nathan, and that she wanted to raise pledges to help fund “Dare to Be a Daniel” in Nathan’s name.

Soon, Nathan’s older brother, Gregory, began training to run alongside Stacey in memory of Nathan. Rob Jones, a BGEA employee, and Rob’s brother Clark, also signed on to run the 26.2 mile marathon. By race time, Preston himself had registered. Together, these five runners, along with the rest of the Parrish family and another family friend who came to cheer them on, formed “Team N8.” All five runners reached the finish line.

“Nathan’s life gave glory to the Lord, and it was important for us to pull together and run this race in honor of Nathan, while raising money for a project that also gives glory to Jesus Christ,” says Preston.

The pledges rolled in as people heard the story of the Parrish family. To date, over \$20,000 has been raised for “Dare to Be a Daniel” in memory of Nathan. Although provided free of charge to “tweens,” each packet of materials for the Daniel project cost \$10 to produce. The money raised will result in over 2,000 youths being trained to spread the Gospel and stand up for their faith.

“Our family grieves Nathan’s absence,” says Preston. “But we know that God is in control and we know that Nathan is part of that great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. I’m sure he’s rejoicing that this will result in even more souls being in heaven.”

Media Note: Interviews with members of “Team N8” and sample “Dare to Be a Daniel” materials are available by contacting Erik Ogren at (704) 401-2117.