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Will Graham Draws 35,300 in Salvador as 3,250 Commit Their Lives to Christ

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Capital of Happiness"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

More than 35,300 people attended Esperança Salvador with Will Graham in Salvador, Brazil, on 13-14 November 2026, and over 3,250 of them responded in repentance and faith, making commitments to follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The two-day outreach filled the outdoor area in front of the Salvador Convention Center with two evening events and a special children's programme on Saturday morning.

Picture the scene as the sun went down over the Bahian coast: thousands of people standing shoulder to shoulder, hands lifted, singing under warm stage lights while the Atlantic breeze moved through the crowd. Salvador is known across Brazil as the "Capital of Happiness" - Capital da Alegria - for its beaches, its music and its nightlife. This weekend, the city heard a different kind of joy preached from its biggest open-air stage.

Will Graham did not soften the message. "Sin can be fun, but it doesn't last and it brings you harm. Sin promises freedom but it enslaves you. It promises satisfaction but it leaves you empty," he told the crowd, according to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA). "Maybe you've been a long way from God. You've run away from your Heavenly Father. Tonight, you can turn from your sin. Tonight, you can come back home to Jesus."

Thousands did. By the end of the weekend, more than 3,250 people had walked forward in response to that invitation - a number the BGEA reported as decisions made across both nights and the children's programme.

Pastor Davidson Freitas: Ten Months Of Work Behind Two Nights

Behind the crowds stood one man who had carried the weight of the weekend for months. Pastor Davidson Freitas directed the Esperança Salvador effort, and he described the harvest in plain, tired, grateful words. "After 10 months working, visiting churches, talking to pastors, training people in the church - to see the crowds and the big harvest for the Lord was an amazing thing," he said.

Freitas has watched the preparation up close since the start of the year: pastors meeting, volunteers being trained, churches opening their doors to strangers. His reward, he said, was not the size of the crowd but what it meant for the people in it, and for what those new believers would recieve in the months ahead. "Lives have been changed by the Gospel, pastors have been encouraged in their preaching, churches are engaged to evangelize the city and the state, and people who were lost and without hope have found a new family, a family of Jesus Christ."

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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