

Billie Hanks, Jr.

Billie Hanks Jr. is the founder of the ministry “Becoming a Disciple-Maker.” Born in San Angelo, Texas, he was reared in a ranching family and at the age of 10 received Jesus Christ as his Savior.

In 1954, Hanks and his family were vacationing in Scotland and several members of the Billy Graham evangelistic team “happened” to be staying at the same hotel. He met Billy Graham and Grady Wilson (Billy Graham’s associate evangelist) and they became life long friends. Grady discipled him for over 23 years until he went home to be with the Lord.

At the age of 20, Hanks became BGEA’s first intern. He traveled throughout the world with the Billy Graham team learning crusade evangelism and became an experienced evangelist in his own right having preached in 29 countries. Later, when Hanks was 35, he was invited to serve as a “minister at large” for BGEA. In this capacity he equipped several thousands of disciple-makers to minister to new Christians.

Realizing the importance of life-to-life training while in seminary, he began discipling men who had a passion for carrying out the Great Commission. Together, they developed disciple-making materials for churches to use throughout the world. Hanks graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas with a master of divinity and received honorary doctorates from California Baptist University in Riverside, California, and Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri.

In 1972, The International Evangelism Association was born and today it guides the highly effective ministry of “Becoming a Disciple-Maker.” Hanks actively ministers widely throughout the world and at West Texas Ranch for Christ. The “Becoming a Disciple-Maker” Lead Church strategy and friendship based equipping process is now being taught for credit in Christian seminaries in North America, South America and Western Europe.