

Barrows and Graham

Cliff Barrows has served as Billy Graham's lifelong associate and crusade song leader. How that relationship began, however, is a lesson in the way that God orchestrates our lives, often unbeknownst to us.

In 1945, before he met Billy Graham, Barrows and his fiancée, Billie, had scraped together enough money for a simple wedding and two train tickets to a city with a resort hotel. On arrival, however, they found the hotel shut down. Stranded in an unfamiliar city with little money, they thumbed a ride. A sympathetic driver took them to a grocery store owned by a woman he knew. The newlyweds spent their first night in a room above the store.

The next day, when the lady overheard Cliff playing Christian songs on his trombone, she arranged for them to spend the rest of their honeymoon at a friend's house. Several days later, the host invited them to attend a youth rally where a young evangelist was speaking.

The song leader that night was sick, and Barrows was asked to take charge of the music for the service. The young evangelist, of course, was Billy Graham. The two have been partners ever since. A series of coincidences that brought them together? I think not. At each point in this story, God used someone for His purpose in putting together a team that would carry His good news to the world. And each of them shares, then, in the resulting harvest of souls for His kingdom.

Just remember: When things are not going the way you plan, God may have plans of his own for you.

--Beecher Hunter