

# Billy Graham's



## "My Answer"

DEAR DR. GRAHAM: Every day I pray that God will make me happy. However, I still am not really happy. What is wrong?--S.O.T.

Dear W.F.: One of the great truths of the Bible is that God hears our prayers. He hears them because he loves us, and in fact he is much more interested in what is best for us than we are. He has promised, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3). Look carefully at one passage of the Bible which tells about prayer. "This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us -- whatever we ask -- we know that God has not promised to give us anything we ask, no matter what it is. Instead, he has promised to hear us and give us what we ask him if our request is according to his will, You might for example ask God for a million dollars -- but if it is not God's will for you to have this, he would not give it to you. There is a sense in which he would have answered your prayer however -- he would have answered "no." Your prayer in this case might well be motivated by selfish or greedy desires, not a desire for God's will. There is another passage about prayer which is important. Jesus said to his disciples, "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14:14). This again is not a blanket promise, saying he will give us anything we ask. Instead, not that it is spoken to disciples -- those who have believed in Jesus and are following him as Lord of their lives. They are, in other words, seeking Christ's will, not their own. Also, when he says we are to ask "in his name" it means more than just tacking "In Jesus' name" onto the end of our prayers. It means we are trusting him and believing in him. We pray in faith, knowing that he loves us and he is able to answer.

### Mt. Pleasant Community

by Betty Blanton

The Fellowship Sunday School class and the Secret Pals held their Christmas party in the church fellowship hall last week. Janice Bruce and Elaine Gibson directed the very enjoyable games. Elaine sang a special number accompanied by Janice at the piano and then led the group in singing Christmas carols. Janice gave the devotional and led the prayer. Party pick-ups of chicken salad pastries, cheese ball, orange balls, pickles, carrot and celery sticks, homemade fudge, other candies, and fruit cake cookies were served with punch. Gifts were given and secret pals were revealed. Mrs. Jack Dawson is teacher of the class and she, Mrs. Claude Bridges and Mrs. Ranny Blanton served on the arrangements committee. The class gave Mrs. Dawson her Christmas gift at the party.

The Senior Adult Ladies class held a Christmas dinner at the home of Mrs. Ethel McBee. The ladies had prepared a delicious meal and they enjoyed this with an evening of lively conversation. Mrs. Ida Simmons is teacher of the class.

The Men's Sunday School class honored their wives with a dinner at the Western Steer in Shelby last week. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Ranny Blanton, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bridges, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Houser, Mr. and Mrs. Yates Houser, Dr. and Mrs. Karl Jordan, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Garland Jolley, Mr. and Mrs. Oren Jolley, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Padgett, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hamrick, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Sarratt, Mr. and Mrs. Shull Whitaker, and special guests, Rev. and Mrs. Ronald McSwain. This class is very fortunate to have two splendid teachers, Mr. Richard Alexander and Mr. Lane Houser.

The families of Mr. and Mrs. Garland Jolley and Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Harris attended the Christmas party for the members of the late Rev. and Mrs. Harris family at the Campfield Memorial Community Building. A tasty meal was enjoyed and a singing was participated in by family members with Mrs. Steve Hawkins at the piano.

Mrs. Robert Hamrick and Mrs. Sue Dagherhart of Gaffney were recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Greene of Arden and while there they toured the Biltmore House in Asheville and enjoyed the beautiful decorations.

The Clyde Blantons had their family get-together at their home and a very delicious meal was enjoyed by their children, grandchildren, daughters-in-law, her sister, and his brother and wife. The family enjoyed the exchange of gifts after the meal.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Hamrick hosted the Buren Hamrick family get together at their home. Every member of the family was present except one who visited later in the week.

Many from the community attended the lovely open house at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Ronald McSwain and Esther. The home was lovely with beautiful Christmas decorations, pretty and tasty refreshments which were served from a very attractive table. Larry Hicks provided music at the piano.

The Thayer Jolleys of Boiling Springs, the P.G. Jolleys, Mr. Junie Scruggs enjoyed a breakfast at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Jolley on Christmas morning. They had visited earlier in the week with Mrs. John Jolley in Duncan, S.C. and then their Sunday guests were Mrs. Howard Jones and Kevin of Dallas. Kevin remained for a visit this week with his grandparents. David Jolley has been visiting from UNC Greensboro and his sister, Carole, is visiting this week in Greenville, S.C.

Holiday guests of the Larry Hicks family were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tarkington and her grandmother, Mrs. Mae Hopper of Kentucky.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Joe Hamrick were guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Patterson, on Christmas day.

Mrs. Teresa Flack and Dr. Gerald White visited his parents in Louisville, Mississippi and attended Dr. White's class reunion on Saturday evening. Heather Bratton visited with her father, Jerry Bratton, and grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Waldon Bratton, over the weekend.

Holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Jolley were their son, Roger, and his family of Decord, Tenn.

Christmas day guests of Mrs. Ida Simmons were Mr. and Mrs. Curt Simmons of Kings Mountain and Mrs. Meredith Hogan and Garret Hogan. Other holiday guests included Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jackson of Gastonia, Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Hogan and Mrs. Ruth Lawing attended the wedding of Mike Hamrick and Betty Rainey at First Baptist Church in Lenoir on Saturday and the reception at the Holiday Inn in Lenoir.

### Flint Hill Community

by Ruby Ledbetter

Rev. C.W. Walker was the guest speaker at both services Sunday during the worship hours. Wednesday night service was conducted by Lemmel Ledbetter.

Rev. and Mrs. Ed Sessom and Mrs. Nancy Freeman, Charles and Debra, drove to High Springs, Fla. on Thursday. They visited with Mr. and Mrs. Otis Bridges and the Sessom's went on to Tampa, Fla. to spend part of the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sessom.

Mr. and Mrs. Olen Ledbetter visited Mrs. Charles Stedding at a hospital in Spartanburg, S.C. last week. They also visited Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ledbetter and Jeff and Mrs. Christie Blanton and Amanda. Amanda came home with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Moore spent several days at Myrtle Beach, S.C. with their granddaughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Pearson. The Pearson's visited Mrs. Louise Collins and Jeff.

The Willing Workers Sunday School class had a party at the Western Steer Restaurant on Tuesday. Ruby Ledbetter is the teacher and she and Mr. Ledbetter were presented a gift from the class.

The families of the late Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Ledbetter had Christmas dinner Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. James Long. Others attending were Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Long of Atlanta, Ga., Chucky Long of ASU in Boone, Rusty Long of Charlotte, Mr. and Mrs. David Ledbetter and Melissa of Concord, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Calvert of Gastonia, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Faircloth of High Point, Mr. and Mrs. William Howington, Betsy Howington, Mrs. Anna Burleson and Stefanie of New London, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Gregory of Shelby, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ledbetter, Jana and Joel of Spartanburg, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ledbetter, Emily and Jennifer Rochester of Boiling Springs, Mr. and Mrs. James Ledbetter, Shannon, Andrea and Ashley, and Mr. and Mrs. Durham Ledbetter.

Visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Moore were Mr. and Mrs. Morgan of Charlotte.

Mr. and Mrs. James Ledbetter, Andrea, Ashley and Shannon, spent Thursday in Gastonia with Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Riddle and Alan. This occasion was the Christmas gathering for the family of Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Harris and family of Boiling Springs.



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