

# MY ANSWER

BY DR. BILLY GRAHAM



Dear Dr. Graham: Do you think the church ought to get involved in political issues? That seems to be all our preacher ever talks about.

-Mrs. W.A.P.

Dear Mrs. W.A.P.: The Church of Jesus Christ has been given a distinctive and unique task in our world by God, and that is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When we fail to do that, we are not doing what God wants us to do. We are under orders: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). Those orders have never been changed.

This is why—generally speaking—I do not feel the church as an organization should become involved in political matters. There are times, however, when political issues also have moral and spiritual dimensions and when this is the case we have a responsibility to speak for the truth. I believe things like abortion are normally wrong, for example, and we have a responsibility to take a stand. At the same time, this must not be our primary task. This is not an easy question, but the greatest need of our hour is for Christians and the church to proclaim the Gospel. Only Christ can change the human heart, and that is the basic problem behind any of our problems today.

Pray for your preacher, and don't be afraid of letting him know of your concern. Be thankful for the moral sensitivity he demonstrates about some of the moral and spiritual problems that infect our world—but encourage him also to teach and preach the full message of the Bible. After a ministry of several years in Ephesus the Apostle Paul could say, "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus...I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God" (Acts 20:21,27). Proclaiming "the whole will of God" should be the goal—and the joy—of every church and every preacher.

## SOULS AND BEACHES BARE

Who has not longed  
to fling aside the clothes  
to dance in the light of an orange moon,  
and rolling, be caressed by tender, dew-wet grass  
till, laughing with the stars  
he sprints across the sandy beach  
and thrusts his panting body  
into the cool embrace  
of churning, salty, beckoning wave,  
and then to lie, fatigue  
upon the sand  
and feel at one with earth  
from whence he came and must return.

And some even dare  
to strip away mask after mask,  
fashioned across the years  
to hide true self, shy or wounded, sore afraid,  
masks to present to those they seek to please,  
one for his home, for work and play,  
and one for church, and one for time alone.  
And some keep stripping masks away,  
finding courage to put trembling hands  
to that next tight-fitted mask,  
and at last to face himself, accept himself,  
blood brother, eternity's companion,  
and feel at peace within.

who has not known  
that persistent, haunting longing  
to unzip life before reality,  
to undress soul and stand stripped bare  
in heaven's white and holy light,  
through running, let confession flow,  
and have one's nakedness clothed upon  
with forgiveness warm and real,  
and feel at one with God.

-T.M. Linnens, Pastor  
Boiling Springs Baptist

## Prospect Community

By Mrs. Broadus McGinnis

Bobby Barnes came home on Saturday from Cleveland Memorial Hospital. He is recuperating after having surgery. His Sunday visitors were Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Johnson of Gaffney, Dr. Van Murrell of Boiling Springs and Ray Barnes.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Phillips and Tim of New Pleasant were Tuesday supper guests of Bobby Barnes.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Potter celebrated their sixth year wedding anniversary on Thursday, March 10 by going out to eat. Their mother, Mrs. T.W. Lovelace stayed with the children.

The current mission group met on Tuesday with Mrs. Effie Mosteller.

James Camp visited on Monday with Onzie Potter.

Rev. John Godfrey of Cooper's Gap ate dinner on Tuesday with his mother, Mrs. Clara Godfrey and Charles. Other visitors were Ulysses Harmon and Mrs. Verle Davis.

Mrs. Joyce Clements and Tony of Spartanburg visited on Friday with Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Jones. Later they visited Mr.

and Mrs. R.O. Jolley. Other visitors for the weekend were Allen Jones of Una, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jones of Henrietta, Mrs. Mae Hamrick near Shelby and Mrs. Lera Walker of Cliffside.

John Washburn Jr. and his aunt Mrs. Sallie Horn of Boiling Spring visited on Saturday with Mrs. Ava McGinnis.

Mrs. Ollie McCraw visited on Saturday with Mrs. Cecile Jolley, Nina and Pettus Mosteller.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Joe Ruppe of Cowpens, and Mrs. Hazel Wallace of Cliffside visited on Sunday with Mrs. Callie Ruppe. Mrs. Orie Elmore visited them also on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Rush Greene of Cliffside visited on Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Price.

Visitors of Mr. and Mrs. G.V. Scruggs were Mr. and Mrs. Wofford Scruggs, Melanie of Belmont, Mr. and Mrs. Billie Scruggs and family of Earl, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Humphries, Charles Hamrick of Gaffney, Mrs. Velma Lemaster of Grassy Pond, Mr. and Mrs. Odus Scruggs of Lavonia Community, Dr. Van Murrell of Boiling Springs, Ray Barnes, Mr. and Mrs.

Dee Greene and Grudger Walker.

The Ledbetter family of Morganton put on a puppet show on Sunday night at Lavonia Baptist Church.

Madison McCraw and sisters have several visitors this week. They were David Matheny and Lesia Bowen of Raleigh, Genia Matheny of Rock Hill, Mrs. Gene Matheny of Shelby, Mrs. Frances Mintz of Cherokee Creek, Paul McCraw of Winston-Salem, Mrs. Sue Dover of Gaffney, Hawa Howard of Shelby, Mrs. Eltice Vassey of Chesnee, Mrs. Mae Farnor, Mr. and Mrs. Earnest McCraw, Lowell Ellis, J.Y. McCraw, Mrs. Betty Webb, and Mrs. Frances Campbell.

Alpha McCraw had the misfortune on Wednesday of breaking her foot coming down the steps from the eye doctor's office in Charlotte.

Those who honored Dennis Jolley on his birthday were Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Jolley of Boiling Springs, Vernia Mae, Trubie and Alma Jolley and Mrs. Dennis Jolley near Shelby. All went to the Western Steak House in Shelby for supper on Thursday.

## Flint Hill News

By Ruby C. Ledbetter

On April 1st at 7 p.m. there will be a special Easter Communion. On Easter Sunday Morning the Easter Cantata "Hasanna," by Joe E. Parks will be done jointly by the Adult Choir, "Images," "The Music Maker's" and "The Young Musicians".

The Sunday School Growth Revival for the whole church will be in April.

Mr. and Mrs. Olen Ledbetter and Josh Dover visited Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Woods in Kings Mountain on Friday. On Sunday the visited Mrs. Christie Blanton and Mandy in Spartanburg, S.C. Mrs. Ledbetter remained for an extended visit.

Mrs. Maybelle Ledbetter (Mrs. G.G.) was a hundred on her birthday Sunday with a dinner at the Fellowship Building. All her children and grandchildren from out of town were present for the morning worship service.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Hines and Matt spent the week-end in Burlington with Mr. Hines' parents.

Mrs. Lillie Jennings is still a patient at Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

## Boiling Springs News

By Louise Moore

Mrs. Tammy Greene was honored with a baby shower on Sunday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Lee Scruggs in Shelby. The hostess was Mrs. Scruggs.

Mrs. Margie Bostic of Cliffside, Mrs. Beth Greene of Shelby and Mrs. Judy Greene of Shelby served cheese waffles, potato chips, pimento twirls, mixed nuts, pickles and cake squares decorated with baby boots and other items for a baby.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Bridges and children, Mark and Julie of Pelham, Ala. spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Greene.

Mrs. Julia McSwain attended a shower for Mrs. Scott Simmons in Shelby on Sunday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Robert Davis. Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Donald Anthony were the hostesses.

Mrs. Marshall Beason and children of the Cherokee Creek community visited Mrs. W.T. Ingram on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Atkins of Forest City visited Mr. and Mrs. Fay Crowe on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Jimmy Greene has returned home after being a patient in Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

Community sympathy is expressed to the family in the death of Mrs. Beulah Martin of Blacksburg, S.C. formerly of Boiling Springs.

Mrs. Ethel Winn celebrated her 87th birthday with a dinner at her home on Sunday. The guests were her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Miss Estell Walker is a patient in Crawley Memorial Hospital.

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