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What Is A Mother?

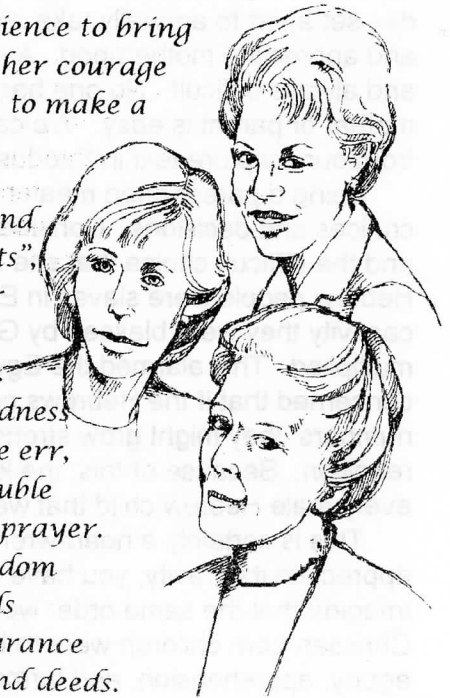
*It takes a Mother's Love to make a house a home,
A place to be remembered, no matter
where we roam.*

*It takes a Mother's patience to bring
a child up right, and her courage
and her cheerfulness to make a
dark day bright.*

*It takes a Mother's
Thoughtfulness to mend
the heart's deep "hurts",
And her skill and her
endurance to mend
little socks and shirts.*

*It takes a Mother's kindness
to forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble
and bow her head in prayer.*

*It takes a Mother's wisdom
to recognize our needs
And to give us reassurance
By her loving words and deeds.*



Helen Steiner Rice



Being A Parent

by
Priest Glenn Orsted

Text Scriptures: Exodus 1:15 - 2:10;
Acts 7:17-22; Hebrews 11:23

"The Lord gives good many things twice over; but he don't give ye a mother but once." Spoken by the character Tom in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. May is once again here and, of course, in the month of May we set one day aside as Mother's Day. A day set apart to annually take a moment to contemplate and appreciate motherhood. A job that is often thankless and always difficult. No one has ever said that being a mother or parent is easy. We can find evidence of this from our scripture text in Exodus.

Being a parent often means having to make difficult choices and decisions. Consider the mother of Moses and the difficult choice that she had to make. The Hebrew people were slaves in Egypt. Despite their captivity they were blessed by God and were fruitful and multiplied. This alarmed the Egyptians who were concerned that if the Hebrews continued to grow in numbers, they might grow strong enough to rise up in rebellion. Because of this, the king of Egypt decreed that every male Hebrew child that was born should be killed.

This is certainly a heart-wrenching story, but to really appreciate its gravity, you have to interject yourself into it. Imagine that the same order were given today. All male Christian-born children were to be killed. Imagine the agony, apprehension, and turmoil you would feel while

expecting a child and knowing that if the child is born a male, he will be killed!

This is the condition in which Moses was born to his mother. The baby Moses was born "a goodly child" and his mother "hid him three months" (Exodus 2:2). Imagine what this family must have endured these three months, living in constant fear that he might cry out and be discovered. How they must have pampered him. They had to have always been ready to cover his mouth to muffle his cries, knowing that at any minute someone could pass by and discover their secret!

Parents were forced to abandon their sons rather than have them taken by force (Acts 7:19). Hoping that someone might find them and take pity on them. And so Moses' mother had to make the difficult decision to abandon her own child. Not because she did not love him deeply, but quite the opposite, she loved him and knew that the only chance he had at life was for her to give him up. This decision had to break her heart, but she had no choice. And so, when it was impossible for her to hide him any longer she secured a basket and plastered it so it would not leak. Then she gently placed the boy inside and put the basket on the bank of the river. It was a difficult decision to make, but one she was forced to make.

Parents still are making difficult decisions about and for their children. It has always been that way and always will; it's part of being a parent. Parents are often called upon to make tough decisions regarding discipline, medical needs, education, associations, relationships, etc. The decisions for a child's spiritual well-being and their walk with God can be some of the most difficult because they often are complete opposite of the natural man within each of us and the world and people surrounding us.

Being a parent also requires wisdom and discernment. Moses' mother didn't just abandon him, she demonstrated wisdom and forethought. She left Moses' sister, Miriam,

nearby to see what would become of him. The implication is that she had left instructions with Miriam about what to do if certain things occurred. So, when Pharaoh's daughter found the basket with baby Moses inside, Miriam asked if she should go find a Hebrew nursemaid to care for the child. Miriam then returned with her own and Moses' mother. She then had to demonstrate remarkable restraint and calmly agree to care for the child and even accept wages for the task.

Today's parents also need wisdom and discernment. When to say yes and when to say no. When to intervene and when to step back and let them work it out. When to grant more freedom and when to tighten the restrictions. When to rejoice over a new relationship or friendship or when to bring it to a halt. To know when your child is being truthful or when they are being deceptive, and to have the answers to life that children need.

The above would be all but impossible of our own ability if we did not have God to trust in to help us accomplish it. The mother of Moses had to trust in God to do what she did. Moses was born with a destiny that God was aware of, but his mother was not. Moses would lead God's people out of Egyptian bondage and be the greatest lawgiver the world has ever known. To accomplish this, it was necessary that Moses grow up in Pharaoh's palace, where he could be educated and made ready for the great tasks that lay before him (Acts 7:22). The mother of Moses had to have been a woman of great faith to entrust her son in God's care although it went against every natural desire of a mother for her child (Hebrews 11:23).

There comes a time when all parents have to trust their children into God's care. As much as you would like to, you cannot always go with your children into the world. In her diary, Anne Frank wrote, "Parents can only give good advise or put them [their children] on the right paths, but the final formation of a person's character lies in their own hands." There is certainly truth in this statement, but as Christians we can go farther and believe that our

children's futures are also in God's hands. But God's future for them may be different than yours.

As Christian parents you are quite familiar with praying for your children and entrusting them to God's care and safekeeping. You pray to keep them safe from danger or harm, to guard them from evil and trouble. When our children are presented before God for a blessing, we are asking him to work in their lives. God realizes that in the lives of children as well as in the lives of adults and parents, some hardship, trial, adversity and pain is necessary for growth and strength.

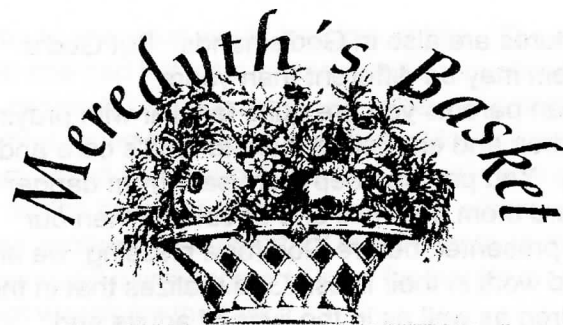
Yes, being a parent is no easy thing. But it is a joyous experience, the most rewarding experience life has to offer. For you see, in being parents you have the possibility, the potential, and the opportunity to raise a soul unto the Lord and to glorify the name of God. Think how different the world would have been if Moses' mother had not trusted her child to God and instead held onto him only to be discovered and killed!

Being a parent means making difficult choices. It always requires wisdom, discernment and the ability to trust them to the goodness and care of God.

★★★★



Honor Thy
Mother



We've used this poem before, but I present it again. It has been a favorite of mine since I was a child (many, many years ago). —Meredyth Malone



Paint her as you see her, Artist,
 Let the lines and wrinkles show.
 And the silver hair that crowns her
 Like a halo's beauteous glow.
 Can you picture on the canvas
 All her years of sacrifice?
 How she tended well the household
 Ever counting naught the price?
 Let your brushes tell the story
 Of her patient toil and care,
 Mingle love with joy and sorrow
 Just as life has put them there.
 Call the portrait simply "Mother"—
 All the world will understand,
 Nations thrive and empires prosper
 Guided by her loving hand.



HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(1991, unofficial)
 Donna W. Moser



#72—World War II Interrupts Conferences

In 1944 and 45 our nation was involved in this cataclysm; with gasoline shortages it became impracticable to hold conferences.

During the latter year, Apostle James Yates published a lengthy account of a vision he had during the night of August 10 (the day that Japan surrendered to the Allies). (I have a copy in my personal collection; no doubt there are others who do also. DWM) He was in Phoenix at the home of his daughter Evalena, then Mrs. William Campbell. He was awakened about midnight by hearing these words repeated more than once.

"In the purpose of God, the Church should function as a divinely appointed and directed instrument wherein the people may worship effectively for spiritual progress unto salvation.

"I weighed that thought...and became more alert in prayerful anxiety to receive whatever spiritual light might thus be given...I beheld and a man conversed with me.... I was shown a modest flower, blooming quite to itself, beautiful.... I was then told...that as with this humble flower, so the Lord's people may absorb...those spiritual graces obtainable...through the gospel of Christ, which when reflected outwardly will need no...contention...to prove who Christ's people are.... The loveliness of the flower needed no...arguments to prove that it was beautiful...its beauty was self-evident.

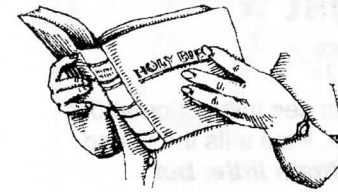
"The good in the Church of Christ may become...self-evident.... I was shown that this lovely flower...had a few tarnished leaves...these detracted...from the perfection of...the whole...till pruned away.... These defects, I was

striking at us (sitting) up front with it." said Gale Brantner, and Elder. "He hit me on the neck and arm and ankle. He was really flailing it around. I thought, 'Do I challenge him, Do I back up? Or Do I pray? And I prayed for the lord to remove him."

Assistant pastor Gary Housknecht said he ran out and called the police on his cellular phone. He

said the man, whom they believe is an illegal immigrant from Australia, has been causing problems at the church for the past three years. (Edited by B.E. Mc)

The Church of Christ is not immune to the attacks of Satan, nor have we ever been promised we would be; rather we are told to expect and prepare for it. Neither are we immune to the eyes of the world watching our reaction and response to the tribulations which come upon us, as you see we made Headline News and TV coverage in regard to this incident. Thus, we need to be mindful to watch ourselves, how we act and respond to the tribulation which comes upon us, as Paul said, "***For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,***" (2 Cor 10:3-5).



Know your Scriptures

Test your knowledge

The answers to each of the clues below all have something to do with the number four.

- 1. Four Gospels**
- 2. Four gifts to the prodigal son**
- 3. Four men in Nebuchadnezzar's furnace**
- 4. First four words of the Bible**
- 5. First four books of the Bible**
- 6. First four words of the Book of Mormon**
- 7. Four major Bible prophets**

Look for the answers on page 12

Point of Interest ☆

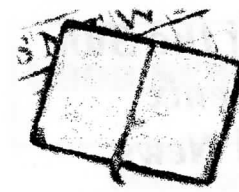
By Brian E. McIndoo

As we read through scripture, we often see instruction about excessive pride and vanity of appearance. Paul tells the young man, Timothy, ***“For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”*** Today I can find more people in my gym than in my church. Not only are they in the gyms to build a younger firmer body, they are getting lipo-suction face lifts, coloring or plugging their bald heads with hair and coloring their gray, in an attempt to maintain youth.

☆ Gray hair was honored in Israel (Prov. 20, ***“The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head.”***). Although gray hair was honored, occasionally some preferred the illusion of youth over the honor that came with their maturity which God so cleverly posted upon their heads. Thus, some of the people in bible times colored their hair. Herod the Great dyed his hair black and some men sprinkled gold dust in their hair. Baldness was not considered a mark of distinction, thus wigs and hairpieces made from human or animal hair were available. One would anoint the hair of another as a sign of respect, and use oil on their own hair as a beauty aid.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

- Know your Scriptures answers:**
- 1) Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
 - 2) A robe, a ring, shoes, and a fattened calf (See Luke 15:11-32)
 - 3) Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the Son of God (See Daniel 4:19-25)
 - 4) In the beginning God... (See Genesis 1:1)
 - 5) Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers
 - 6) I, Nephi, having been (See 1 Nephi 1:1)
 - 7) Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel



Why Are People Not Always Healed?

By Priest Glenn Orsted

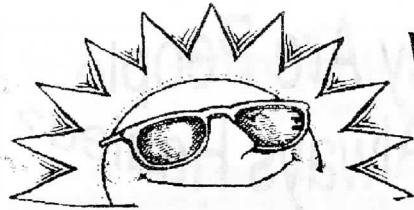
Study to shew thyself approved unto God,...

A Thorn in the Flesh	II Corinthians 12:7-9
Infirmity of the Flesh	Galatians 4:12-14
Trophimus Left Sick	II Timothy 4:20
Plagues of the Land	Deuteronomy 29:21-24
God Will Not Hear	Isaiah 59:1-2
Could Not Heal	Acts 28:27
Many Are Weak & Sickly	I Corinthians 11:29-30
Could Do No Mighty Work	Mark 6:5
Died With Fevers	Alma 21:75-76
If They Die	Book of Commandments 44:35

Reasons People Are Not Always Healed:

- 1) To create humility
- 2) Exhibit all—sufficiency of God's grace
- 3) To teach patience and diligence
- 4) Hard-heartedness
- 5) Lack of faith
- 6) Iniquity

Of course the challenge is in determining if it is because of one of the first three reasons or one of the last three!!!



Valley of the Sun Phoenix Local News

"Therefore, all things what ever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12

It seems that the month just flew by.

Our snow-birds, Mary and Emery Pinder and Bernie and Laura Ritsema have gone home. We will miss them and look forward to seeing them next winter. Keith and Leonna Hoare, who were here visiting, stopped in Missouri to attend Conference on their way home to Canada.

Deanna Hinkle was here for a week visiting Charlotte Hinkle while Don and Betty McIndoo attended Conference.

Quite a number of our congregation, twenty-seven in all, were able to attend Conference. Many of them took little side trips (some not so little) on their way home. Ken Oar went to the Northeast to minister there for a while. Hube and Jim Yates traveled in Southern Missouri before heading for the Northeast.

On the way home from Conference Brian and Becky McIndoo stopped to visit the Michael and Barbara Kimball in Oklahoma, as did Rhea and Doris Housknecht. Jim and Kim Yates stopped to hold services in Payson, Arizona and Joel and Jennifer Yates visited our members on the Navajo Reservation.

Go to the next page for the 'Good News' for the month →

GOOD NEWS

"Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." Psalm 147:1

When Don was ready to retire he told me how much money he would be getting if he remained working and what he would be getting if he retired. He left town for a few days, leaving me to think about this. The more I thought about it the more nervous I became. Because we had never been able to save any money when he was working, I wondered how we could get along on half the amount. I became very depressed and began crying and praying. After a period of time the Lord told me not to worry for he would take care of us. He has kept that promise for 20 years. I have not worried at all even when things looked like they could get tight. The Lord does hear and answer prayers.

Betty McIndoo

★★★★

