

# From the Desk of Rabbi Gold



## Brith Milah

An incident occurred recently which led me to believe that there are still some people in our community who don't know the rules regarding circumcision and the naming of a baby in the Temple. Only a baby girl is named in the Temple. This naming ser-

vice usually takes place a week or two after the child's birth. The rules regarding circumcision are explicit. A baby boy has to be circumcised on the eighth day and is named at the circumcision services. There is no other ceremony in Jewish tradition for the naming of a baby boy. May I call to your attention the following article, published in our Temple Bulletin in November 1964. This article expresses the views of both conservative and reform rabbis.

### RULES OF CIRCUMCISION (BRITH MILAH)

The Brith Milah is fundamental to Judaism. It is a hallowed ritual which binds the Jew to our Heavenly Father, and joins him with the generations of our ancestors who have performed this "Rite of the Covenant" since the time of Abraham. Circumcision is also re-

Gov. Sawyer  
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training and the development and general enrichment of the children through the professional skills of persons in nutrition, health, education, psychology, social work and recreation.

Transportation and a hot lunch were furnished to the children and classroom instruction was supplied by a special trained teacher and teachers aid with the assistance of a number of volunteers in each classroom.

Follow up programs for these children as well as programs for new classes are now being prepared.

VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)

Vista is a group of full time volunteers trained by the Federal Government for a period of four to six weeks who will live and work with the poverty stricken people of any community when requested by proper authority.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

A special program of literacy instruction for adults recognized as of great hygienic value and today even non-Jews have their children circumcised.

However, Brith Milah is more than a surgical operation. It is a religious rite. In order to qualify as such it must be performed by a dedicated individual, a certified Mohel or a Jewish doctor. The Mohel or Jewish doctor is a recognized specialist in the performance of this rite. This is demonstrated by the fact that when Prince Charles of England, heir apparent to the throne, was circumcised, a Mohel was appointed to perform the operation. Since we do not have a Mohel in this area, Rabbi Gold will be most happy to officiate with any Jewish doctor selected by the family.

The Mitzva of Brith Milah must be performed on the eighth day after the birth of the child. This is so important that the Torah requires the performance of the Brith on the eighth day even if it occurs on the Sabbath or on Yom Kippur.

The date may be postponed ONLY when the doctor certifies that the health of the child makes the delay necessary.

We recommended that parents communicate immediately after the birth of a son with our Temple, and arrange to hold the Brith Milah on the proper date and in accordance with true Jewish tradition. There are at least six Jewish doctors in Las Vegas available to officiate with Rabbi Gold. Please honor this most ancient of Jewish traditions with reverence and dignity.

18 years of age and older who have less than a 6th grade education. It is sponsored by the Nevada State Department of Education in Carson City.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS TO COMBAT POVERTY IN RURAL AREAS

The program provides loans and technical assistance to help very low income farm families to increase their income from farming or to develop new opportunities for earning added income.

The program also includes assistance for Migrant Agricultural workers in the field of health, housing, sanitation, education and day centers for their children.

EMPLOYMENT AND INVESTMENT INCENTIVES PROGRAM

This provides loans for small businesses not eligible under other loan programs. WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS

Through this funds are provided for projects to help unemployed fathers and other needy persons to gain work experience and job training. It is directed primarily toward jobless heads of families in which there are dependent children.

Programs are now in operation in Clark County, Washoe County and the Fort McDermitt Indian Colony.

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