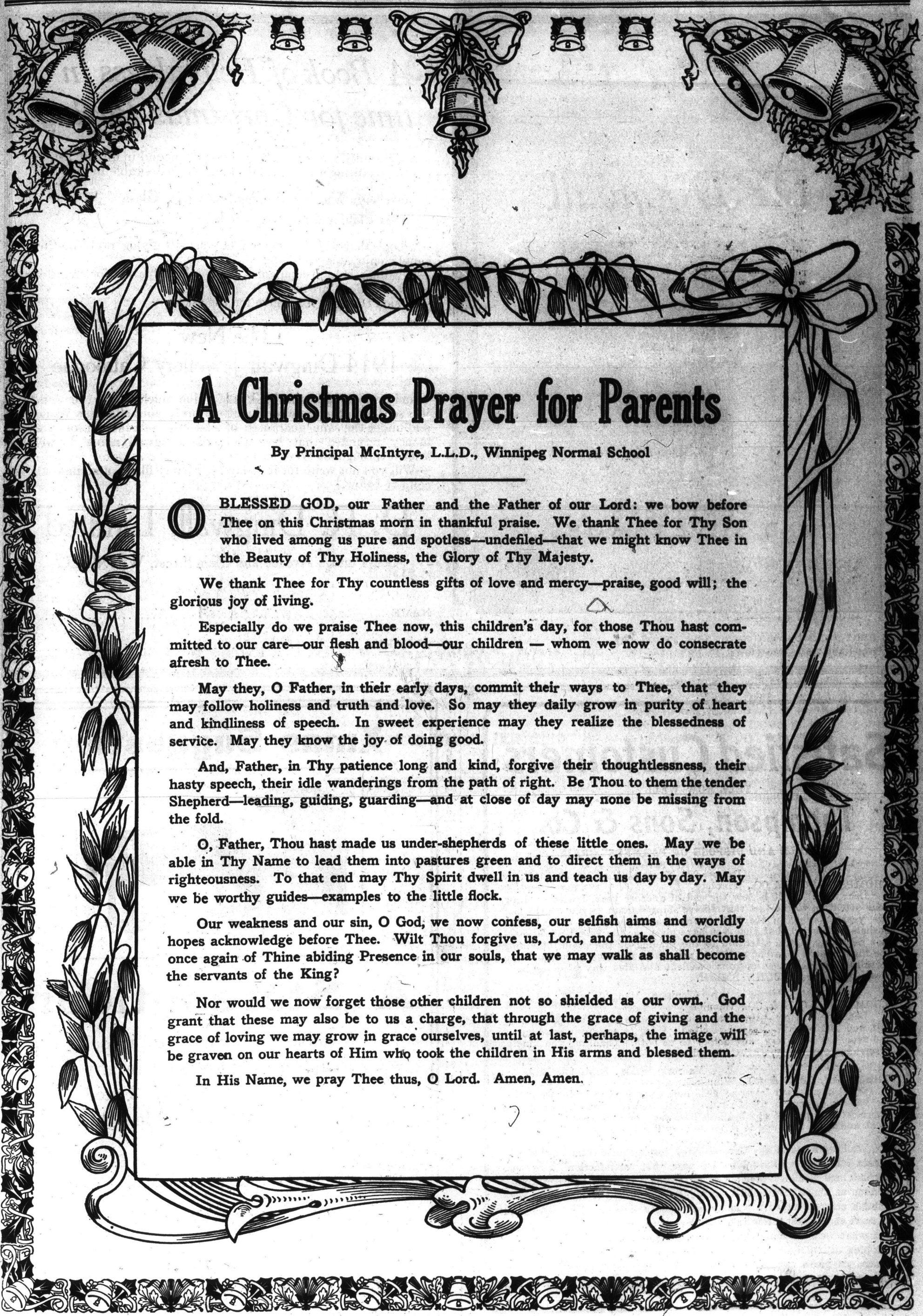




A Christmas Prayer for Parents

By Principal McIntyre, L.L.D., Winnipeg Normal School

O BLESSED GOD, our Father and the Father of our Lord: we bow before Thee on this Christmas morn in thankful praise. We thank Thee for Thy Son who lived among us pure and spotless—undefiled—that we might know Thee in the Beauty of Thy Holiness, the Glory of Thy Majesty.

We thank Thee for Thy countless gifts of love and mercy—praise, good will; the glorious joy of living.

Especially do we praise Thee now, this children's day, for those Thou hast committed to our care—our flesh and blood—our children — whom we now do consecrate afresh to Thee.

May they, O Father, in their early days, commit their ways to Thee, that they may follow holiness and truth and love. So may they daily grow in purity of heart and kindness of speech. In sweet experience may they realize the blessedness of service. May they know the joy of doing good.

And, Father, in Thy patience long and kind, forgive their thoughtlessness, their hasty speech, their idle wanderings from the path of right. Be Thou to them the tender Shepherd—leading, guiding, guarding—and at close of day may none be missing from the fold.

O, Father, Thou hast made us under-shepherds of these little ones. May we be able in Thy Name to lead them into pastures green and to direct them in the ways of righteousness. To that end may Thy Spirit dwell in us and teach us day by day. May we be worthy guides—examples to the little flock.

Our weakness and our sin, O God, we now confess, our selfish aims and worldly hopes acknowledge before Thee. Wilt Thou forgive us, Lord, and make us conscious once again of Thine abiding Presence in our souls, that we may walk as shall become the servants of the King?

Nor would we now forget those other children not so shielded as our own. God grant that these may also be to us a charge, that through the grace of giving and the grace of loving we may grow in grace ourselves, until at last, perhaps, the image will be graven on our hearts of Him who took the children in His arms and blessed them.

In His Name, we pray Thee thus, O Lord. Amen, Amen.