



II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

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To Mother—On Mother's Day

For all the things you've been to me,
My guardian and my guide;
For truths you have so gently taught
And all the tears you've dried;

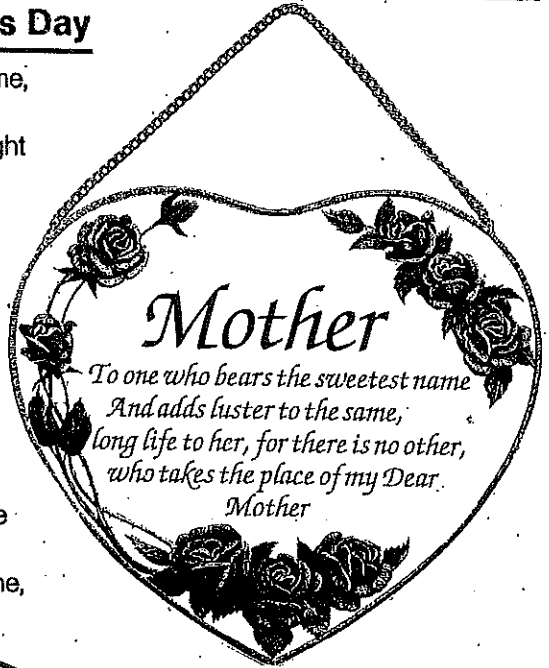
For faith and understanding
When I faltered on my way,
I owe you more thanks, Mother,
Than words can ever say.

So on this day that's set aside
Especially for you,

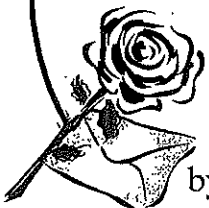
I send a wish for happiness
In everything you do.

May each hour bring you pleasure
Every day of every year—

For all the things you've been to me,
I love you, Mother dear.



The bravest
battle that ever was
fought, shall I tell you
where and when? On the
maps of the
world you will
not find it.
It was fought
by the mothers
of men.



Happy
Mother's
Day!

MOTHERS ARE LIKE NO OTHER PEOPLE!

Mothers are peculiar people—
not like any other people in
the whole wide world.

Just looking at them you
might think some of them
don't have anything in
common—some are short
and fat, some are tall and
thin; some rich, some poor.

But they are all sort of
blind in one way:
each one thinks her children
the most beautiful, the
most talented, sweetest
in the country.

And even though a mother
may be in the middle of
giving a child who has
misbehaved a good
walloping, don't make the
mistake of trying to get
in a few good licks yourself—
she'll turn on you like
a lioness defending her
young, and tear you to
shreds!

Mothers have odd little bits of
knowledge.

They know how to soothe
a crying baby,
how to make gravy
without lumps,
how to make an impossibly
small paycheck cover
an incredibly large
number of expenses,
how to kiss a cut finger

so it stops hurting,
and just exactly where to
kick the side of the
refrigerator so it
will start running again.

Mothers are terribly inconsistent.

They aren't afraid of the dark
or thunder and lightning or
having the doctor stick
needles in their arm,
but they scream and run
like crazy when they see a
tiny little mouse.

Mothers are funny people.

They say, "These new styles
aren't for me,"
and keep wearing the
same old dress,
and then buy a new
bicycle for Junior;
or they will have their old
shoes fixed up
and buy new pink
sandals for Susie.

Sometimes mothers can't make
up their minds.

They will raise their voices
and shake their fingers
at you and sometimes even
spank you till it hurts
like everything;
then when they think
you aren't listening,
they will tell other people
how wonderful you are.

Nobody knows what makes
mothers tick

except our Heavenly Father
who made them
and in His loving-kindness
arranged for everybody
to have one. —Jane Hillsman

SHOW LOVE AND RESPECT FOR YOUR PARENTS

If there were some way of
counting the number of graves that
were dug because of thoughtless
boys and girls who broke their
mother's or father's heart, the total
figure would shock us. Oh, young
people, how thoughtless we are
sometimes! How often we fail to
show our love and respect for
mother and dad when they are alive
to enjoy it.

My young friend, if your mother
and father are still living and you
are near them, go to them now,
throw your arms about their necks,
and tell them you love them! It will
be the best tonic in the world for
them. It will please them more than
anything you could do, if you really
mean it.

It occurs to me that this mes-
sage might be finding its way to

some older boy or girl who is away
from mother and father now. In
your own estimation you are
"grown up," and capable of look-
ing out for yourself. But do not for-
get, you will always be their little
boy or little girl. Write to them to-
day if you haven't already done so.
Write them a long letter, one of
cheer and appreciation.

Don't selfishly scribble, "Excuse my
haste,
I scarcely have time to write,"
Lest their drooping thoughts go wan-
dering back
To a bygone night
When they lost their needed sleep and
rest,
And every breath was a prayer
That God would spare their precious
babe
To their tender love and care.

Don't let them feel that you have no
more need
Of their love, or their counsel wise;
For their heart grows strangely sensi-
tive

When age has dimmed the eyes.

It would be much better to make them
feel

That you never forget them, quite;
That you deem it a pleasure when far
away,

A good letter home to write.

Don't think that the young and giddy
friends

Who make your pastime gay

Have half the anxious thought for you
As the old folks, far away.

The sad old folks back there at home

With locks fast turning white,
Are eager to hear from the absent one;

WRITE THEM A LETTER THIS NIGHT!

MOTHERS NEED TUNE-UPS

****Carburetor:** When a mother's carburetor floods it
should be treated immediately with Kleenex and a soft
shoulder.

****Brakes:** See that she uses her brakes to slow down
often and come to a full stop occasionally. (A squeaking
sound indicates a need for a rest.)

****Fuel:** Most mothers can run indefinitely on coffee,
leftovers and salads. But an occasional dinner for two at
a nice restaurant will really add to her efficiency.

****Tune-ups:** Mothers need regular tune-ups. Compli-
ments are both the cheapest and most effective way to
keep a mother purring contentedly.

If these instructions are followed consistently, this
fantastic creation and gift from God, that we call
MOTHER should last a lifetime and give good service
and constant love to those who need her most.

*Praying mothers
are as necessary now
as in Bible days!*

WITHOUT A THING TO DO!

She cooked the breakfast first of all,
Washed the cups and plates,
Dressed the children and made sure
Stockings all were mates,
Combed their heads and made their beds,
Sent them out to play,
Gathered up their motley toys,
Put some books away,
Dusted chairs and mopped the stairs,
Ironed an hour or two,
Baked a jar of cookies and
A pie, then made a stew.
The telephone rang constantly,
The doorbell did the same;
A youngster fell and stubbed his toe,
And then the laundry came.
She picked up blocks and mended socks,
Then polished up the stove
(Gypsy folks were fortunate
With carefree ways to rove!)—
And when her husband came at six,
He said, "I envy you!
It must be nice to sit at home
Without a thing to do!" —Author unknown

Listen to the parable of The Prodigal Mother

A certain man had a wife and three children. The wife, becoming dissatisfied with housekeeping, and coveting the money being earned by her neighbors, said to her husband— "Husband, secure for me the Social Security number that falleth to me, and divide me my portion . . ."

With reluctant heart the husband granted her desire and divided his wealth. Not many days later the wife donned slacks and, with tool box under her arm, waved goodbye to the children, and took her journey into a far country and there secured a man's job in a factory. She made big wages, but she associated with the wicked and listened to the vulgar stories that they told.

There was a mighty spiritual famine in that land, and she grew lean in her soul. The children, turned loose at the mercy of the neighbors, soon forgot that they had a mother; but the husband remembered the duties of a wife and wished that his wife would return to her home.

The husband dined on cold lunchmeat, while the wife tried in vain to fill her stomach with the husks of the cheese crackers that fell from the canteen vendor's machine. And no man gave unto her the respect due unto a lady.

One day at rest period as she sat engulfed in cigarette smoke and smutty stories, she came to herself. She said to herself with remorse, "Here I sit, surrounded by vulgarity, and sacrificing the respect due a lady. At home is a deserted husband, while my children roam the streets unrestrained. The money I make seems small compared to peace of mind and soul." In vain she tried to smother her conscience with the thought that she was contributing to the family's economic welfare. So she said to herself, "I will arise and go to my husband and will say unto him, 'Husband, I am no more worthy to be called thy wife, nor the mother of thy children. Make me thy hired housekeeper.'" So she gathered her tools together and started home.

And when she was yet a long way off, the husband saw her, and clasped her in his arms. And the wife said, "Husband, I am no more worthy to be called thy wife, nor mother of thy children." But the father said to the children, "Run and bring hither a dress and the best apron. Put shoes on her feet, and rush to the meat market and get a steak of the fatted calf, and let us have a warm meal once more. For this your mother was lost, and is found." So they rejoiced and made merry.

A wealthy widow had two sons. It was time for her birthday and they were at loss as to what to buy her for she had "everything." One bought her a new car. The other went to New York City to an expensive shop where rare birds were sold. He was shown a large Mynah bird that could talk, sing, even whistle. The price tag was \$5,000.00. He bought it and had it shipped to his mother in Ohio. The night of her birthday he phoned her, wishing her happy birthday. "Did you get the bird, mother?" he asked. "Yes, I sure did, son." "How did you like it?" was his next question. She said, "It was delicious."

NEW 'SECULAR DEMOCRATS' GUNNING FOR CHRISTIANS

A new group of "Democrats" has emerged in America that intends to wipe Christian values from the nation's landscape. Secular Democrats of America (seculardems.org) has produced a 28-page manifesto for the Biden administration that calls Christians "anti-democratic and anti-scientific" and "a national security threat" to the United States. And it wants more consideration given to atheists and Muslims.

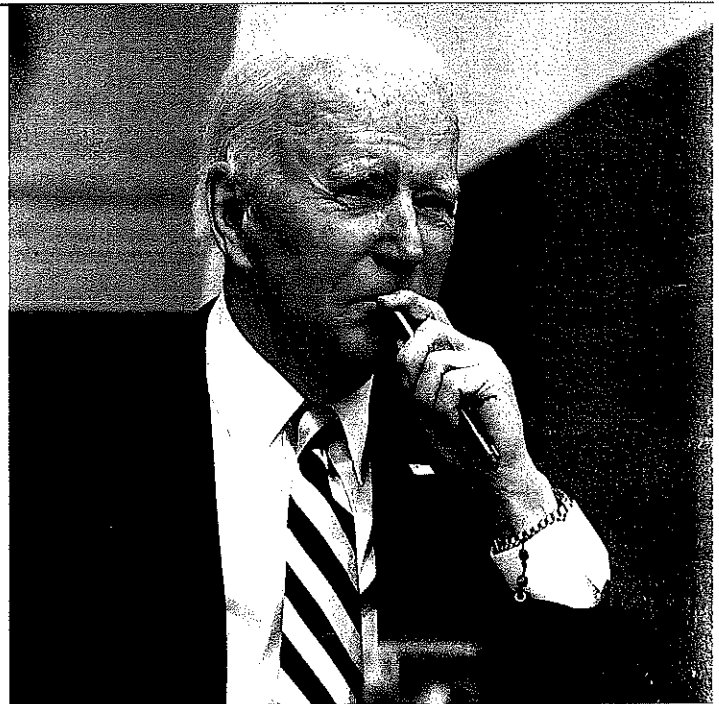
Jan Markell, founder and president of Olive Tree Ministries and host of the radio program "Understanding the Times," commented, "The road ahead in America will be the greatest challenge ever for people of faith. The Godless Left is now in charge of our country: White House, House, and Senate. And these secularists are urging all leaders to stick it to people of faith. To take away every aspect of religious freedom. In their sights are churches, ministries, and individuals who refuse to see government as god."

The Secular Democrats' "key issues" involve education, civil rights, healthcare, "scientific integrity," "protecting children and minors," and "military and national character." Here are a few excerpts from its blueprint for America:

We urge you [President Biden] not to underestimate the institutional strength of what we refer to (interchangeably) in this document as the "Christian nationalist movement" or the "religious right." This movement is extraordinarily well-funded and well-organized. . . . Its political ideology is anti-democratic and anti-scientific. It provides constant cover for white supremacy. And it advances a reactionary economic policy, tax policy, and dominionist view of the environment that undermines our capacity and will to address the climate crisis. Its agenda rests on a pinched interpretation of biblical principles preached by Christian nationalist leadership and thought leaders. With their political agenda sanctioned by a higher power, their base of support is disciplined, motivated, and deeply committed to a vision that does not align with our basic constitutional values and democratic principles.

We ask that you counter this movement's narrative by actively working to dismantle its grip on our government and counter its inaccurate and revisionist messaging around our nation's founding.

We recommend you: encourage the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice to dedicate resources to de-radicalization programs aimed at hate groups, including, but not limited to, white nationalists; increase monitoring of such groups, including the online environment, and take action to address increased hate crimes toward minority faith communities; and shift



* President Joe Biden

rhetoric to label violent white nationalist extremists as terrorists.

According to Gallup, the most mistrusted religious minorities in the United States are atheists and Muslims. Acknowledging the rights and dignity of these communities would have a bottom-up effect.

Taxpayer dollars should not be funneled either to contractors or grantees that discriminate on the basis of religion, or to programs that promote a sectarian agenda, such as private religious schools, crisis pregnancy centers, and abstinence-only sex education.

Reverse all executive orders, rules, memoranda, and other actions that exempt faith-based organizations contracting with the federal government from nondiscrimination requirements that apply to secular organizations, including employment discrimination. This includes the following: . . . Dismantle the Department of Justice Religious Liberty Task Force; dismantle the HHS Conscience and Religious Freedom Division; repeal Executive Order 13798, Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty and reverse its implementation across various executive agencies; rescind and replace the Department of Justice Memorandum, Federal Law Protections for Religious Liberty.

This lengthy document can be read in its entirety at tinyurl.com/SDmanifesto-1.

For news about Israel updated daily, log on to foi.org/news.

New Delhi, India—Hindu extremists attacked a group of tribal Christians preparing to celebrate the New Year, causing a Christian woman eight months pregnant to miscarry after beating her unconscious and kicking her in the stomach. Twenty-five-year-old Leela Bai was refused treatment at two hospitals.

Wielding wooden batons and stones, a large mob attacked the Christians in Dewada village, reported morningstarnews.org. Sardar Vaskale, a Christian homeowner, along with a visiting pastor, had organized a church service of thanksgiving and prayer and had permission for a gathering of more than 100 people.

“Dividing themselves into groups, the Hindu extremists took Vaskale to one side and began to beat him while another group approached the women and girls, seized their mobile phones, and began sexually harassing them, survivors said,” morningstarnews.org reported. Another group searched Vaskale’s house.

The Christians were told they would all be killed if they went to the police. In addition, “It was plain to see that because of political pressure, the hospital authorities did not take Leela’s case,” a pastor and Christian leader told the news service.

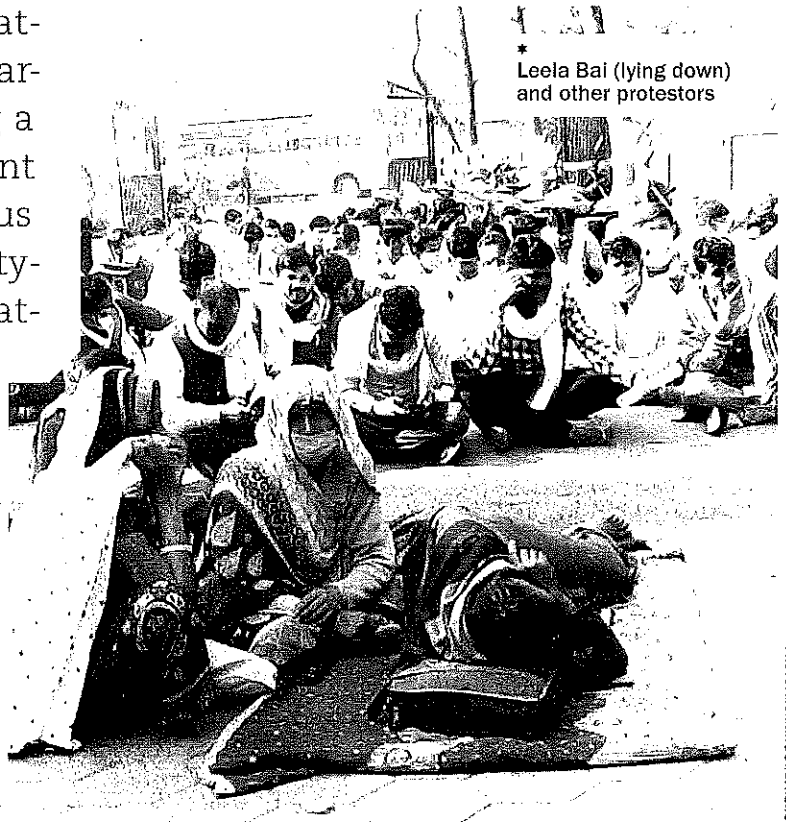
Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria

A 43-year-old Christian father of four who reposted a cartoon of Muhammad on his Facebook account three years ago was recently sentenced to five years in prison. His children are ages 6, 4, 3, and 3 months; and one is seriously ill, reported morningstarnews.org.

Hamid (surname withheld for security reasons), a poultry farmer, heard nothing from authorities after reposting the cartoon in 2018 until they appeared at his home in January 2021, said Rachid Seighir, pastor of Oratoire Church in Oran, some 250 miles west of Algiers on the Mediterranean coast.

“It is a tragedy for us and for his family,” Pastor Seighir said. “When a member of the Body of Christ is sick, the whole body feels the pain. Brother Hamid was naive in accepting this cartoon on his Facebook account.”

Hamid was arrested based on Article 144, which has been condemned by human rights organizations as a violation of international law. In its report, “Policing Belief,” pro-democracy group Freedom House said the article is commonly used to persecute Christians and allows “police officials and judges to impose their own religious perspectives on society, and to give at least one version of Islamic practice the force of law.”



*
Leela Bai (lying down)
and other protesters

PHOTO: MORNING STAR NEWS

Nearly 90 people are imprisoned in Algeria for acts related to protest and/or exercise of individual freedoms. Charges are often based on Facebook posts, according to the National Committee for the Release of Detainees.

Jos, Nigeria

A professor at a Christian university was released after being kidnapped in Nigeria, which leads the world in abductions of Christians. John Fatokun, professor of computational mathematics and numerical analysis and deputy vice chancellor of Anchor University in Lagos, was released in January, two days after Fulani herdsmen captured him as he traveled from Jos to Nasarawa state, reported morningstarnews.org.

“Despite the experience, my faith remains unshakable,” Fatokun told reporters. “We will continue to work, pray, and raise godly men and women who are destined to change the narratives and make Nigeria a better place for the generations ahead.”

Nigeria is the country with the most Christians killed for their faith (3,530), according to the 2021 World Watch List, up from 1,350 in 2019. In overall violence, Nigeria is second only to Pakistan, and it trails only China in the number of churches attacked or closed (270), according to the list.

The full text of these articles, along with many more articles on the persecution of Christians, may be found on morningstarnews.org.