

## A Rebuke for America

At the 1994 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., Mother Teresa of Calcutta was the keynote speaker.

Only 4 ½ feet tall, she could barely see over the podium. But when she spoke, President Bill Clinton and other dignitaries heard a stinging rebuke: America had become a selfish nation, losing the meaning of love because of the practice of aborting unborn children.



Mother Teresa, who died in 1997, was a nun who spent most of her life and ministry with the poor in India. She founded the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation which in 2012 consisted of more than 4,500 sisters and was active in 133 countries. They run hospices and homes for people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis; soup kitchens; dispensaries and mobile clinics; children's and family counseling programs; orphanages; and schools.

Writing on the incident at the Washington prayer breakfast, Dr. David Jeremiah, pastor of the Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, said that America, "the beacon of freedom for the rest of the world, has at time misapplied the meaning of the word. True freedom and liberty are experienced when we find the courage and power to serve the weak, the immature, the less fortunate than ourselves."

Like Mother Teresa, he added, "The apostle Paul had words of rebuke for Christians who care more about their personal rights and freedoms than the spiritual needs of the less mature. Yes, Christians are free, not bound by rules and regulations. But if we use our freedom to offend another, we have become abusers, not servants."

What freedoms have you set aside lately in order to serve someone who needed your strength?

The freest person in the world is the one who makes himself a voluntary servant of others.

Associates in Life Care and Century Park have learned the truth of that principle, and they apply it every day to those entrusted to them.

*But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak (1 Corinthians 8:9).*

– Beecher Hunter