

## What is True Freedom?

Tyrants have terrorized and persecuted their own people almost since the beginning of time. Modern tyrants include:

Benito Mussolini (ruled Italy 1922-1943)

Joseph Stalin (ruled the Soviet Union 1922-1953)

Adolf Hitler (ruled Germany 1933-1945)

Fidel Castro (ruled Cuba 1959-2006)

Saddam Hussein (ruled Iraq 1979-2003)

You'll read about an ancient tyrant – Pharaoh, king of Egypt – in the story on page 3. He ruled Egypt during the time that the prophet Moses rescued the Jews (Israelites) from Pharaoh (about 1440 B.C.).

“Power tends to corrupt. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

“Saddam seldom based his military strategy on logic, national interest, or least of all, genuine national defense. As in everything else, his tactics were centered on whatever would benefit him personally or exalt his reputation and authority in the region. He was interested only in his own glory and power...” (page 13, *Saddam's Secrets*, Iraqi General Georges Sada with Jim Nelson Black, © 2006)

As you rebuild your country, always remember that you need to build on the unselfish foundation of love.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor’ and ‘hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who

persecute you, so that you may be like your Father in heaven, since he causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors do the same, don't they? And if you only greet your brothers, what more do you do? Even the Gentiles do the same, don't they? So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” - Matthew 5:43-48

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Until you - the people of Iraq - genuinely love your neighbors, you will never have true political freedom. Until Behdini Kurds, Sorani Kurds, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Yezidis, Turkoman, Sunni Arabs, and Shiite Arabs learn to genuinely love each other, Iraq will never be free. Until the leaders of Iraq put their selfish ambitions behind them and think more about empowering and educating the “small” people of Iraq instead of thinking about themselves and what they can buy next for themselves, there will never be true political freedom in Iraq.

Freedom starts with individuals. Don't wait until “someone else” loves and serves his neighbor. You love and serve your neighbor. Start today.

Do what one of the American presidents suggested: “Ask not what my country can do for me, but what I can do for my country.” (John F. Kennedy)

**“The nation of Iraq, like all those in the Middle East or elsewhere that operate in an atmosphere of corruption, had been weakened by hatred, suspicion, and fear—all the worst emotions. ... But thank God, the structure erected by Saddam and the Baathis has collapsed, and Saddam is gone—because it was an empire built on shifting sands. And as the Bible tells us, only a house built on solid rock can stand.”**

- Georges Sada, retired Iraqi General and fighter pilot, 2006