

## LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Dear Mother,

I write this letter today with a blessed and humble heart. For the events of the past few days have caused me to reflect and recognize my blessings. In this case- YOU!

I am so blessed and grateful to have you as my mother. I recognize the characteristics of myself that I received from you. Most importantly, My love for Allah/God; My natural kindness; My good looks; and My great sense of humor;) All of which have made my life fulfilling. No matter where I am or have been.

I know in my youth I was the cause of so much of your pain, embarrassment, stress, and disappointment; as well as your joy, pride, and laughter. I know I fell well short of your expectations, as well as my own. I know the absence of my presence in the family, caused a void all these years. A void I know you attempt to fill. That is your nature (as you attempted to fill the void in my life that my absent father left). Nevertheless, I know my part in separating our family has caused you sorrow-to say the least.

Yet, today. You are still here. Alive, healthy and happy. I enjoy our relationship today and look forward to it becoming stronger. Especially when I am home. I am blessed to have a mother that is always by my side and supportive, even if you disagree with my actions Thru all that I have been thru in my life. The constant positive is you and Allah/God. Al-Humdu lil-lah (All praises are due to Allah/God)

Ma. I just wanted to write this letter and remind you how much you mean to me and how much I appreciate, love & adore you. You were my first teacher in life. One of only two people that have ALWAYS been there in my life (the other is your mother. My Grand Ma).

I struggle at times with ways to repay you for all you've done. How do I give equally? Impossible! So I attempt to do 3 things: 1) I attempt to do all I can to come home. Do my part in completing our family; taking care of you, and furthering the legacy of our family. 2) I attempt to be the best ME I know how to be. Staying true to my nature and allowing the life you gave me to flourish and be of great service to Allah/God. 3) I attempt to share with all I encounter, the blessings you gave and passed on to me. So as people get to know me it is the memory of you; because all I have to share I got from you

My love for Allah/God; My natural kindness; My good looks; and yes of course, My great sense of humor=)! I am truly thankful, grateful, appreciative, and blessed that you are my MOTHER. I love you with all that I am.

I pray that our time apart is nearing it's end. I know we can't catch up on all the time we lost. However, I know we will cherish and relish the time we spend together. For all the time I am with you, speaking to you and sharing with you. I know it is a blessing that many do not get to no longer enjoy. I am aware that all the time I get to have with you is a blessing from Allah/God and I do not deny any blessings from my Lord.

I love you mother. I hope to see you soon.

Your first born,

MICHAEL LUCAS

\* 7 )