





*Mini*   
**Moments**  
*for*  
**Mothers**

*Forty bright spots to  
make a mother's day.*

**ROBERT STRAND** 

*Mini-Moments  
for  
Mothers*

*Mini-Moments  
for  
Mothers*

*by Robert Strand*



New Leaf Press

First printing: February 1996

Tenth printing: June 2005

Copyright © 1995. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission of the publisher except in the case of brief quotations in articles and reviews. For information write: New Leaf Press, Inc., P.O. Box 726, Green Forest, AR 72638.

ISBN: 0-89221-316-7

Library of Congress Number: 95-73130

**Printed in the United States of America.**

Please visit our website for other great titles:

[www.newleafpress.net](http://www.newleafpress.net)

For information regarding author interviews, please contact the publicity department at (870) 438-5288.

Presented to:

---

Presented by:

---

Date:

---



## Tell Me!



Quite soon after her baby brother was born, little Ellie began begging her parents to let her be alone with the new baby. They, naturally, were a bit worried that like most four and one-half year olds, she must be feeling some jealousy and might do him some harm, so they said “no.” But as they observed her and baby brother they detected no signs of jealousy. When she had the opportunity, she treated the baby with kindness. As a few days went by her pleas to be left alone with him became more and more insistent. They finally decided to allow it.

Happy, she went into the baby’s room and shut the door . . . but Mom and Dad followed and opened it a crack, just enough for curious parents to look in and observe. They watched as little Ellie tiptoed up to her baby brother, put her face down close to his, cheek touching cheek, and said, “Baby, tell me what God feels like. I’m starting to forget.”



A mother should be like a quilt . . . keep  
the children warm but don't smother them.

*He tends his flock like a shepherd: He  
gathers the lambs in His arms and  
carries them close to his heart; He  
gently leads those that have young  
(Isa. 40:11).*



## Growth



The landscape gardener looked surprised, “Will you say that again, ma’am?”

The lady of the house waved a hand to include the several-acre woodland she was having landscaped, “I want a picture of how it will all look when it’s finished . . . fish pond and rose garden included. Could it look like this sketch in *Better Homes and Gardens*?”

“Hard to say, you know,” the gardener said, “we’re dealing with living things. I can show you a pattern, I guess, but these things grow. Okay? So you’re going to have to keep on planting, cultivating, and trimming. Who’s to say what it will look like someday? It’s just never going to get finished growing.”

Later, the lady, explained to her friend, “I had no idea I was hiring a philosopher, but that little speech reminded me that growth doesn’t stop when we or our kids reach our full height.”





Simply having children does not  
necessarily make a woman a mother.

*Listen my son, to your father's  
instruction and do not forsake your  
mother's teaching. They will be a  
garland to grace your head and a chain  
to adorn your neck  
(Prov. 1:8–9).*



*God can't always be everywhere,  
and so He invented mothers.*

*Sir Edwin Arnold (1832–1904)*





## Honking Horns



It could have happened in your town. A lady driver was having difficulty getting her car started after it had stalled in traffic at a light. The gentleman (using the term loosely) in the car immediately behind her insisted on expressing his impatience with her by blowing his horn, loudly and insistently.

Finally, this lady, worn out by his thoughtfulness, stepped out of her car, walked back to the honker's car and said, "I am having a bit of difficulty in getting my car started. If you'll go and see if you can start it, I'll be glad to honk your horn for you!"

I love it! A whole lot of folks in your town, in your church, in your clubs, do much more honking than helping. There are always more talkers than workers. More critics than builders. Anyone who drives much will get honked at . . . and anyone who tries to accomplish something of value will find horn-honkers.



A mother's patience is like a tube of  
toothpaste . . . it's never quite all gone.

*We also rejoice in our sufferings,  
because we know that suffering  
produces perseverance; perseverance,  
character; and character, hope  
(Rom. 5:3–4).*



## *The Real Story*



Asked by his mother what he'd learned in Sunday school, ten-year-old Jimmy launched into an exciting story. "Teacher told us about when God sent Moses behind the enemy lines to rescue the Israelites from the Egyptians. When they came to the Red Sea, Moses called for the engineers to build a pontoon bridge. And after they had all crossed, they looked back and saw the Egyptian tanks coming. Moses radioed headquarters to send bombers to blow up the bridge and save the Israelites!"

"Jimmy!" said his mother. "Is that really the way your teacher told you that story?"

"Well, not exactly," Jimmy admitted, "but if I told it her way, you'd never believe it!"

In the minds of most adults, Sunday school is a place for kids. But it's more than that. It's a place for adults, as well as being a great support system for reinforcing life principles.



Children brought up in Sunday school are  
seldom brought up in court.

*Train a child in the way he should go,  
and when he is old he will not turn  
from it (Prov. 22:6)*



## *The Master Note*



Have you heard the story of a shepherd in the mountains of Idaho, who was a listener to one of the finer musical programs on the radio? One night after listening to the concert, he wrote a letter to the radio station in which he made a most unusual request.

The letter said in part: “I enjoy your program from Los Angeles every week and I am writing to ask you a favor. It’s rather lonely up here in the hills and I haven’t much to entertain me except listening to the radio. I have an old violin which I once could play, but it has gotten badly out of tune. I wonder if you would take just a moment on your program next week to strike ‘A’ on the piano, so that I may tune my violin?”

At first they smiled at the letter, but honored the request when the next program of concert music came on the air. What’s so important about an “A” note? Musicians tell me it’s the master

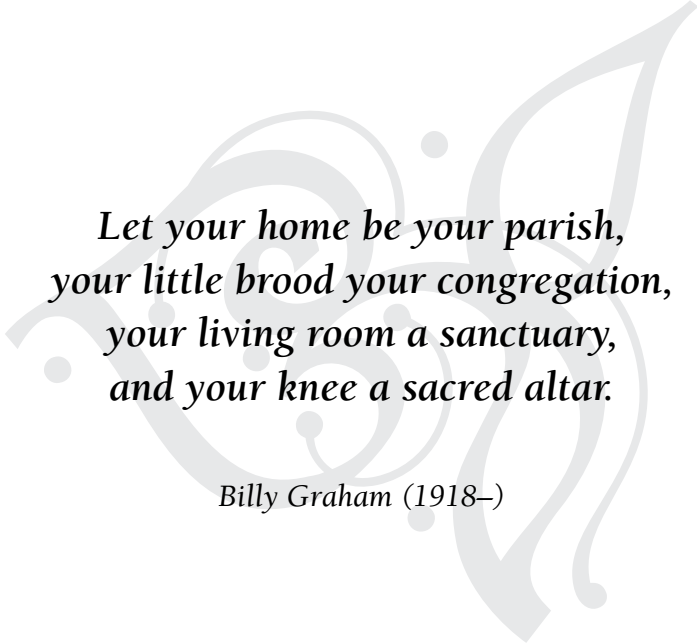




note on which all the rest of music is founded. And in life, Jesus Christ, is that master note!

Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship. (Dr. Thieme)

*“But what about you?” he asked.  
“Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter  
answered, “You are the Christ, the  
Son of the living God”  
(Matt. 16:16–17).*



*Let your home be your parish,  
your little brood your congregation,  
your living room a sanctuary,  
and your knee a sacred altar.*

*Billy Graham (1918–)*





## Forgiveness



Florence Littauer has written a book, *After Every Wedding Comes a Marriage*. I'll lift one quote from it: "I used to gather up my husband Fred's faults with the fervor of a child picking berries. I had a whole shelf of overflowing baskets before the concept of forgiveness fell heavily upon me. To be spiritual I plucked out a few of Fred's faults and forgave them, but I didn't want to clear the whole shelf. Where would I go for future reference material?"

Good question! In order to make any kind of human relationship work, there must be forgiveness as part of the mix someplace. We all make mistakes. Many things in life cannot be "made right." The only answer for the human blundering and living is an honest act of forgiveness. It's outrageously costly . . . this cutting away from a person their wrong and letting them go



free. But there is no other way to meaningful, honest, open, healing, wonderful relationships!

She who cannot forgive others breaks the  
bridge over which she must pass herself.  
(George Herbert)

*Forgive us our debts, as we also have  
forgiven our debtors  
(Matt. 6:12).*