

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

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February 2, 1994

THE FIRST LADY'S REMARKS
TO THE NATIONAL PRAYER LUNCHEON

MR. HALL: We need to get started. We're going to have a prayer here real quick. Will the people, please, in the front take your seats? We need to get started. Thank you.

On behalf of the Senate and the House prayer breakfasts, we welcome you to a wonderful day. It's been truly exciting. My name is Tony Hall. I'm a member of Congress from Dayton, Ohio. This has been a tremendous day. What we're going to do is, we're going to have a prayer, and then we'll have lunch, and then the program will start about 15, 20 minutes after that.

It's my privilege to introduce for the opening prayer Dr. Philip Wagaman (phonetic). He's the senior minister of the Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. Dr. Wagaman is a Ph.D. and he has a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University and a B.A. from University at the Pacific. Dr. Wagaman's many writings include 13 published books. He's a good friend of Washington, D.C. His is the church that Hillary and Bill Clinton oftentimes worship at, and we're glad to have him. Doctor?

DR. WAGAMAN: Let us pray. God of us all, in whom we live and move and have our being, help us to be grateful for the gifts of Your providence and the deep reaches of Your grace. If any here today are torn by self-doubt and crippled by a sense of worthlessness, speak to them, oh, God, of Your great love and their great value.

If any are filled with pride and self-righteousness, grant humility to see that our true destiny lies in Your greater glory, and that we can trust a power beyond our own.

God, help us to connect our personal faith with our responsibilities, lest our faith be ingrown and the community and those in need be left unserved. Speak to us through the haunting eyes of the poor and hungry. Speak to us through the

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pleas of the outcast and the oppressed and the fears of those vulnerable to violence through war or crime. Help us to be instruments of Your peace and Your healing and your grace.

Bless now the food of which we are to partake, these, Your gifts of earth and sky and human hands, that they may enrich our life together and give us strength to serve. Oh, Thou from whom all good things come, in Christ we pray. Amen.

MR. HALL: Thank you, Doctor. This is the time we want you to enjoy your lunch, and we'll be starting just around 1:15. Thank you.

(A luncheon recess was taken.)

MR. HALL: I don't know about you, but this has been a tremendous day, it's been a great week, and the members of the House and the Senate are quite excited about all the people that have come from all the 50 states, various nations of the world. And the seminars, I know, have been exciting. It's been a tremendous blessing to all of us. And so we really appreciate you being here. We appreciate your attention.

I might say that I had a great pleasure, a great chance to spend some time with Mother Teresa a few years ago in Calcutta, and I spent about two or three hours with her. It was one of the most fulfilling, rewarding experiences I ever had. She has an amazing ability to -- as she would take us around to her orphanages and AIDS clinics and places where people were very sick, near death, she has an amazing ability, this power of God as she touches people. She touches everybody, and she brings them and hugs them and loves them, and I felt that I was certainly in the presence of something magnificent and very powerful.

And she speaks in the language of Jesus. When you would ask her a question, she would answer back to you in the way -- as if you were talking to Jesus. Some people speak French, speak German. She speaks Jesus. (Laughter.) She's wonderful. (Applause.)

This city has been a great city for my wife and I. It's been a great city because my wife and I actually found God here, and we didn't know Him until we got here 15 years ago. And when I found out who He was, I wanted to tell everybody. As a matter of fact, I did tell everybody, and people would come over to me, and they'd say, "Tony, what's going on?" And

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I'd say, "You're not going to believe this, but I believe in Jesus." And it would get real quiet, and my wife would kick me under the table and say, "What's the matter with you? We're going to lose friends. What are you a Jesus freak of some kind?" (Laughter.)

And the interesting thing about is, I would ask her every night for six months, "Janet, did you say that prayer to receive Jesus?" And she'd say, "That's none of your business. Don't ask me. You're getting on my nerves. I don't like it." And the fact is that after six months, I didn't do it anymore because I got tired of doing it, she wasn't listening.

And it's very interesting. After six months of not preaching and not talking down to her and not judging her and not trying to push something on her, she really began to believe. And she says, "I believe because after you stopped doing all these things, you're life changed, your life changed before me."

And so it was quite a revelation to me. And as you read and as we study and love St. Francis of Assisi, he says a wonderful thing. He says, "We need to preach the Gospel, and sometimes we need to use words," which is very interesting. We don't have to preach, we don't have to shove it down people's throat; we demonstrate it.

And I think that's what this week is all about. That's what loving God and loving others is all about, is how to function, how do we function in the spiritual world. And we see tremendous examples here today, this morning, the seminars, and it's been a tremendous experience for all of us, and I'm just glad to be proud of it.

I'm going to introduce Susan Baker, who's going to introduce the First Lady, but before I do that, we want to bring you Kieran Dudley (phonetic), who is a young lady from Capetown, South Africa, and she's a great friend of this family. She's been here for two years, she's of tremendous service. She has a very sweet spirit about her, and everybody who comes in contact with her just is -- she affects them in a wonderful way. She always has a smile. So it's our pleasure to bring Kieran up here, and she's going to do a song for you. (Applause.)

(Ms. Dudley sings.) (Applause.)

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MR. HALL: Thank you, Kieran. We just heard this morning -- Andy Young was with us this morning, and his wife Jeannie is very sick. And, as you know, Andy Young was a member of Congress, a former ambassador to the United Nations, mayor of Atlanta, and he had to leave us and go back with his wife. So would you remember Andy and his wife Jeannie in your prayers?

It's now my pleasure to introduce Susan Baker, who is going to introduce the First Lady. And Susan Baker is, according to my wife and certainly according to my thinking, is one of the great ladies in this country. This family thinks that she has hung the moon, and I think so, too. She's a very gracious lady, she's a very warm lady. She works with a lot of different programs which people don't know about. And when she came to Washington with her husband, Jim Baker, she organized almost every wife of the cabinet in those days to work in various capacities throughout the city, in shelters and places like that. That's the kind of person she is.

She's also part of a small group of women that are bipartisan, both Republicans and Democrats, that pray, that meet together on a regular basis to pray for Hillary Clinton and her family.

And she is just a gracious lady, and we're so happy to have her with us. Susan Baker. (Applause.)

MS. BAKER: Thank you, dear Tony. I'll tell you, it's a real honor for me, and I have to admit, a little bit of surprise that I have the pleasure of introducing our speaker today. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend some personal time with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Now, strangely enough, she isn't at all like that person that I keep hearing about in the media that has the same name. (Laughter.) I've decided not to go into her long and very impressive c.v. because it would take all afternoon. Instead, I just want to tell you that I have found her to have, number one -- and I think this is crucial, particularly in this town -- a fabulous sense of humor. I mean, she has one of those laughs that is so deep it's contagious. I was thinking I really wanted to say belly laugh, but that doesn't quite go together with First Lady, so I didn't do that. (Laughter.)

You all know what a remarkable helpmate she is to her husband, but you may not know that she is a very, very

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wonderful parent. I mean, she understands her 13-year-old in a way that kind of boggles my mind. She and Chelsea won the mother-daughter game hands down. The rest of us flunked. (Laughter.)

She's also fearless. She's even willing to chase the chef at the White House out of his kitchen to cook Chelsea's and her husband's favorite meals.

She is a woman of incredible warmth and caring. It is real, it is genuine. She's also a woman who, not only wants us to pray for her, she asked for our prayers.

Now, we all know that this town is a really, really tough place. But many don't know that it is also a place that is full of pockets of grace. The International Foundation and other organizations for years have been cultivating small groups of men and women, men and women of different political parties, different religious persuasions, to get together to study the word of God, to pray, and to support each other.

Now, to say that we don't have differences with each other is not quite right. We do. There are many differences. But we agree to disagree in the spirit of Christ. The focus is on our points of shared interest, on our mutual caring for each other, really on our love for each other, and not on our differences.

There are meetings on the Hill, there are meetings in independent agencies and cabinet offices all around this town. There are many Republicans like myself who are praying daily for Hillary Rodham Clinton and the President.

When you go home, I hope that each one of you here will consider starting a little group, hopefully bipartisan, to pray for the leadership of this country. It is so important for our leaders, and it's so important for our nation. Nothing could be more important.

Now, will you all join me and let's pray for our First Lady. Dear Father in Heaven, we lift our First Lady to you today. We are so aware of the awesome responsibility you've placed on her and the President, and we ask special blessings on their lives as well as the life of their daughter Chelsea. We pray that she may have the gift of wisdom and discernment in all that she does, whether public or private. May the challenge of her jobs, the many hats she wears

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strengthen her faith and her dependence on you.

May she cultivate a forgiving heart, Lord, toward all the hard things a First Lady must endure. May she have the courage to brook opposition when it's right and the courage to see when things are wrong. May she grow in love and understanding of her foes, real or perceived, as well as her family and her friends. May she become better and not bitter in adversity. May she have the time to enjoy her successes and her husband's successes.

May her compassionate heart receive understanding. May she experience the grace and comfort of real friendship in spite of her impossible schedule. May there be time outs in her hectic life and refreshment for her body and her soul. May she and her family grow closer every day and experience the fun and the joy of quality time together.

And, finally, dear Lord, when her job is done, may she have that true peace and contentment of knowing that she has been a good and faithful servant in your service. Amen. (Applause.)

MS. CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you very much, and thank you, Susan, for that prayer and for the spirit that imbues you every day, that enables you to reach out to so many of us.

I must confess I am here with some trepidation. The last time I spoke in public about spirituality, around the time of my father's death, I was astonished to realize that there were many people for whom spirituality should be confined to events like this, and not brought out into the public arena. I was amused when one commentator wrote that my critics were divided between conservatives who suspect I did not mean what I said and liberals who feared that I did. (Laughter.)

And I have become accustomed over the past year to living between those kinds of poles and trying as best I can to navigate what is for many of us uncharted terrain. Because as my husband said this morning, freedom of religion does not mean, and should not mean, freedom from religion. And striking the appropriate balance, and being able to witness in a public role what one feels and lives through one's own spiritual journey, opens one up to misunderstanding and criticism.

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But it is my very firm conviction that there is a growing awareness of the need for a spiritual renewal in our country and a willingness on the part of many to act and work in good faith together to fill that sense of emptiness with the word and with an outreach that is grounded in real Christian values. *I am indebted to*

I am indebted, as I stand here before you at the end of my first year in this position and in this city, to many, many people. A new church home, which is an inner city church, struggling both to minister to the many needs that one finds in any of our cities as part of a social gospel, and but also struggling to deal with the personal needs and demands that come through all of a congregation's individual search for salvation. Many friends who have been supportive and understanding of what it is like to make the kind of transition that my family has made. *I am indebted to the*

But I am particularly indebted to the group of women that Susan referred to, women who have reached out to me, not only by praying for me, but also by being my friend, who knew often just the right moment to call or to drop a note, to send a book, to let me know that they were thinking about me. And I have received many ^{wonderful} gifts in the year that I have been here, wonderful gifts, but none have meant more to me than the intangible gifts that were given to me at "The Cedars" a year ago by these women.

And what I would like to do with all of you today is to convey to you the same intangible gifts. They are gifts that have stayed in my heart, have kept me going, have served as both balm and spur, and have helped enrich greatly my own sense of what we all mean when we use the words we all use, coming from whatever particular perspective we inhabit words like "values," words like "spirituality," words like "renewal." And I am so grateful for these gifts that I want to share them with you.

The first gift is the gift of compassion. This was given to me with the admonition and warning that I would be called upon to show compassion to endless lines of suffering ones. And the prayer that came with that gift of compassion was that I would never try to rely on my own reserves, but to draw freely and regularly from the one whose storehouse is always full.

I have found this a very important gift. I have

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is difficult
 always understood and valued compassion, but it is difficult day in and day out, confronted by the many needs that are present, always to be able to reach out compassionately when one's own storehouse is near empty. And to be constantly reminded that it is not my storehouse that will fill itself on its own, but that it can always be filled if I remember from where that real reservoir of compassion comes.

And the other part of the gift of compassion was the scriptural reference that came along with it. Mark 6:34: "As He went ashore he saw a great throng and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things."

We all need compassion. It is not only a gift that I have tried to give; it is a gift I have gratefully received.

The second gift was the gift of courage -- courage to stand strong in the midst of criticism, to give in when necessary, to take a risk when it's right, and, above all, to fear God alone, for the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

Courage is needed in our everyday life. Every one of us ~~in this room~~ needs the gift of courage. Sometimes we don't recognize when we need it. Sometimes we reject its offering, because it is frightening to use the gift of courage. But if one believes that ~~that~~ courage is not rooted in the day-to-day, but, instead, ~~again~~, comes from the word of the Lord and the outreach to support one in the face of situations which demand courage -- and courage fills one also.

the Lord will provide

I can't say that I have necessarily needed courage in the last year to face risks that were public and large, where the enemies that were arrayed against me were visible, but I have certainly needed courage on many days just to keep going, to feel supported, to know that even in the face of misunderstanding, there were risks that I felt called upon to take, and that I could never have done it without the courage that comes from God alone.

is The third gift, and one of Susan Baker's favorite words, *discernment*, a word that I had never really paid much attention to before, ~~not~~ a word that I really associated with scripture. And I'm very grateful to have that word and its

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meaning now as part of my life.

I know that the gift of discernment, particularly to seek wisdom that should come, and to know that it is through our Father that the spirit of revelation often gives us an insight into a person, an experience, an event that would not otherwise be available, has enriched and enlarged my life immeasurably.

And it is when one learns a new word that one sees and hears it all the time. The Old Testament scripture this morning, if you remember, was the understanding to discern wisdom. So it's just one of those words now that I take with me and incorporate into my life with gratitude.

The next intangible gift, the greatest gift in many ways for all of us, is faith. God is utterly faithful, and it is He who has called you into fellowship with his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. That from First Corinthians and that from one of my friends.

Faith is something that I take very seriously. I do not believe that I am a very good Christian. I think it is extremely hard to be a Christian. I think every day is a challenge to one's Christianity, and that by growing in faith, minute by minute, hour by hour, that faith becomes stronger and deeper and bigger and opens one's eyes to greater possibilities and further challenges.

One of my husband's former pastors, a great Southern Baptist preacher, W.O. Vaught (phonetic), used to preach often about baby Christians. And, yes, you move through stages of maturation, but most of those whose Christian work I most respect are open always to learning more about their own faith, and knowing that there is no final answer until the end of one's life, and that part of what we must do is to grow in our faith and exhibit it. And it is for me a great gift and a great challenge.

I remember ^{the first time} I ever spoke in front of a religious group was in my church as a child, when, during confirmation, each of us were to stand and read our essays, "What Jesus Means to Me." And I recently re-read that essay of my 11-year-old self, and there was much that was very simple about my beliefs, but much that was also as profound as any theology I have read since. So one's faith journey is really for me one's continuing effort to grow in both wisdom and

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stature as a Christian.

The next gift was fellowship, and I am so grateful for that. The scripture that was used to convey that gift from Proverbs, "A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity." And the prayer that went with it was for a sister to walk with me through adversity, to hold me up when the burdens are heavy, and to encourage and love me without condition.

I have been blessed with many brothers and sisters who have been there for me, and I always hope that I can be as good a friend to others as they have been to me. Because it is through fellowship and relationship in Christ that one grows and sees what is possible with the human condition. And without fellowship one's faith becomes too inward, too isolated. With fellowship one begins to see the full range of possibility.

The next gift is one I have needed on a daily basis. It is the gift of forgiveness. This gift came with the description that forgiveness is the most powerful expression of love we can give or experience. It is also the most costly. For the Lord, it was the cross; for me, it cost my pride. Forgiving is hard. Forgiving those who seem determined to destroy, to tear down, those who seem to have a political or financial or personal agenda; forgiving those who bear false witness, who delight in spreading stories, gossip, rumor.

It is hard to forgive. But it is also essential, ^{to forgive} not only to live, but to grow in Christ, ~~to forgive~~.

Remember when Jesus was asked, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother? Up to seven times - ^{seventy} ~~seventy~~." ?

(End side 1)

^{Another} ~~the next~~ gift is the gift of joy. MS. CLINTON: ~~what boundary~~. And I have always believed that Christ wanted us to be joyous, to look at the face of creation and to know that there was more joy than any of us could imagine. Or as Mother Teresa told us this morning, to see the joy on the face of a homeless beggar, who was picked up off the street and brought in to die, and says joyously, "Thank you."

I have to be reminded that this world in which we

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are engaged is serious, but joy far outweighs any other experience, ~~and~~ what I hope is that I will never lose sight of the joy and the laughter that goes with it, that revitalizes the spirit, lightens our burden, ^{and} brightens our way. And that I will also find joy in the trials that I face, and that you will as well, because I know that these trials or difficulties are part of God's plan.

The next gift is that of love. I particularly appreciated the description of this gift from my friend who wrote, "Over the past decade I have witnessed conflict between my friends who are Christian and those who are Democrats." (Laughter.) "They often act as if they each belong to an exclusive club. They appear to have little in common and are cynical of each other." But as she said, "My belief is that this is not true."

It is also my belief. There is no greater gift that God has given any of us than love, and every time I get discouraged by what I see as the nitpicking and the nay-saying that sometimes floods the air, I remember what Jesus said when he was asked which of all the commandments was the most important to follow, and he mentioned two. You know what they are. Both had to do with love. Because all the commandments were given to help us love God and love each other as we should.

It is very hard to do. It is so difficult for me to love some people. My husband has a much better and greater understanding. His mother was filled with unconditional love. You had to go so far to get her off of you. She wouldn't give up on the sorriest person you ever saw. I would sometimes have conversations with her where I would say, "Virginia, this person is" -- and I would fill in the blanks. And she'd just look at me and she'd say, "Well, all I know is that he's good to his mamma," or, "He's good to his dog," or he's good to somebody. (Laughter.) She taught me so much about love, unconditional love for people ~~that~~ ^{who} weren't always the best that society had to offer.

~~As I've sat here,~~ ^{to me today} many of you have come up and introduced yourselves. You've been with Chuck Colson's prison ministries, you've been with urban ministries. Day in and day out you are called more than I to love those who need to see God's love through you. And I am grateful both for the love that I feel, and I hope to be able to give more of it.

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peace is

The next gift was peace. Very hard to achieve. It seems that there is always a reason why your anxieties interrupt the peace that you seek. I pray along with my friend who gave me peace that God's perfect peace will envelop me as I face each day's demands and opportunities. That is not always the case. I try not to read the newspaper. I try not to watch the television on days when my peace is in a fragile condition. But it is something ~~for~~ *light* which I seek.

And the gift of vision, seeing things which are often invisible to others, knowing that Jesus provided the ultimate vision of being "the way, the truth and the life," and that each of us, not only should have a vision, but inspire others by our vision.

Spiritual renewal often starts with a person's vision, a revelation, if you will, an idea planted by God and shared with others, trusting that the Holy Spirit will inspire similar thoughts in those with whom you do share. Because when you encourage and inspire others to have a vision of what is possible through Christ, you put into action ways that will lead to the accomplishment of God's goals.

And wisdom, a gift that we are always seeking. If any of you lack wisdom, you should ask God, as the scripture says, "who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." But wisdom that comes from Heaven is, first of all, pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

~~Wisdom.~~ When I went to Sunday school years ago our books often talked about how Jesus grew in wisdom and stature. I think about that often because it is unlikely I will grow any further in stature, but I certainly hope I will grow more in wisdom as the years go by.

To these gifts I added the gift of prayer, an intangible, but all-pervasive gift that stays with me on a daily basis, that lifts me up, that helps me let off steam, that guides me. These are gifts that I am so grateful for. But beyond that, I am grateful for the spirit that offered them.

When I came here and was asked if I wanted to meet

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with a group of women, bipartisan, Republican and Democrat, conservative and liberal and all those labels that I think interfere with us seeing each other as people, I didn't know quite what to think, but finally decided that it was something I needed to do and have been very grateful that I did.

- that we think

I hope for all of us as we think through this day that brought people together from all over the world and all over the country of the gifts we have to give and receive. The greatest gift of Christ's life to us and his example should guide us, challenge us, support us, not just as prayer breakfasts or prayer lunches, but every single day. If we approach these gifts with the humility that we should, then the chance of renewing one's own spirit and of that reaching out across our land becomes all the greater. And that would be a great gift for America. Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

MR. HALL: Thank you, Mrs. Clinton. We thank you for the tremendous amount of time that you've given us today. Both you and your husband spent a lot of time with us. And we thank you for your words of compassion and faith and courage and grace, forgiveness and joy, peace and love, and unconditional love.

And the one thing that we want to say, and we oftentimes have not said -- we need to say it more. It's always been one of the purposes of the National Prayer Breakfast for 50 years, is to let the President and his family know, whoever they may be, Republican or Democrat, that we care for them, that we love them, and we love them unconditionally, and that we will continue to pray for them and hold them up.

Thank you for your wonderful speech and for being such a great asset to our country. (Applause.)

I talked about my wife, but I didn't introduce her, Janet Hall, my friend. (Applause.)

Now, to conclude this afternoon, we have Reverend Dick Halverson (phonetic). He's a friend of all of us. He's probably one of the most respected chaplains that's ever served as advisor to many, and whenever I have any major decision to make, he's the first person I call. Dick Halverson. (Applause.)

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DR. HALVERSON: Thank you. Dear First Lady, our First Lady, thank you for these incalculable gifts. And as I listened, I realized you've given us gifts that are imperishable. And I speak for everyone in this room, thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

Let us pray. Our Father in Heaven, our hearts are very full for the blessings of this day. We thank You for Hillary, for Hillary Rodham Clinton, for our First Lady. Somehow impress upon us unforgettably the obligation -- the obligation -- which the word of God clearly lays upon us to pray for those in authority, to pray for our President and his family.

It is true they sought the office. It is also true that they serve by the consent of the people, which is fundamental in our political system. But even infinitely more important, Your word declares there is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained of God.

Today the White House is occupied by those whom God has ordained to be there, which lays upon each of us all the time a tremendous obligation to uphold our President and his First Lady and their daughter in daily prayer.

Somehow, Lord, I'm thinking of the marvelous promise in the New Testament, God works in everything for good to them who love Him and are called according to His purpose. May that text in Romans be very real in the White House, and may they realize that even though some of the things that happen are not good, God is working in them for good. And grant to them the grace, with all of the criticism, all of the gossip, all of the anger and sometimes hatred, that when we do it, not only do we deny our faith, but deny the very political system which is the foundation of our national life.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

ALL: Amen. (Applause.)

MR. HALL: We're through.

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To these gifts I added the gift of prayer, an intangible, but all-pervasive gift that stays with me on a daily basis, that lifts me up, that helps me let off steam, that guides me. These are gifts that I am so grateful for. But beyond that, I am grateful for the spirit that offered them.

When I came here and was asked if I wanted to meet with a group of women, bipartisan, Republican and Democrat, conservative and liberal and all those labels that I think interfere with us seeing each other as people, I didn't know quite what to think, but finally decided that it was something I needed to do and have been very grateful that I did.

I hope for all of us as we think through this day that brought people together from all over the world and all over the country of the gifts we have to give and receive. The greatest gift of Christ's life to us and His example should guide us, challenge us, support us, not just as prayer breakfasts or prayer lunches, but every single day. If we approach these gifts with the humility that we should, then the chance of renewing one's own spirit and of that reaching out across our land becomes all the greater. And that would be a great gift for America. Thank you all very much.

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HRC edits

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Internal Use Only

February 2, 1994

THE FIRST LADY'S REMARKS
TO THE NATIONAL PRAYER LUNCHEON

MR. HALL: We need to get started. We're going to have a prayer here real quick. Will the people, please, in the front take your seats? We need to get started. Thank you.

On behalf of the Senate and the House prayer breakfasts, we welcome you to a wonderful day. It's been truly exciting. My name is Tony Hall. I'm a member of Congress from Dayton, Ohio. This has been a tremendous day. What we're going to do is, we're going to have a prayer, and then we'll have lunch, and then the program will start about 15, 20 minutes after that.

It's my privilege to introduce for the opening prayer Dr. Philip Wagaman (phonetic). He's the senior minister of the Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. Dr. Wagaman is a Ph.D. and he has a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University and a B.A. from University at the Pacific. Dr. Wagaman's many writings include 13 published books. He's a good friend of Washington, D.C. His is the church that Hillary and Bill Clinton oftentimes worship at, and we're glad to have him. Doctor?

DR. WAGAMAN: Let us pray. God of us all, in whom we live and move and have our being, help us to be grateful for the gifts of Your providence and the deep reaches of Your grace. If any here today are torn by self-doubt and crippled by a sense of worthlessness, speak to them, oh, God, of Your great love and their great value.

If any are filled with pride and self-righteousness, grant humility to see that our true destiny lies in Your greater glory, and that we can trust a power beyond our own.

God, help us to connect our personal faith with our responsibilities, lest our faith be ingrown and the community and those in need be left unserved. Speak to us through the haunting eyes of the poor and hungry. Speak to us through the

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pleas of the outcast and the oppressed and the fears of those vulnerable to violence through war or crime. Help us to be instruments of Your peace and Your healing and your grace.

Bless now the food of which we are to partake, these, Your gifts of earth and sky and human hands, that they may enrich our life together and give us strength to serve. Oh, Thou from whom all good things come, in Christ we pray. Amen.

MR. HALL: Thank you, Doctor. This is the time we want you to enjoy your lunch, and we'll be starting just around 1:15. Thank you.

(A luncheon recess was taken.)

MR. HALL: I don't know about you, but this has been a tremendous day, it's been a great week, and the members of the House and the Senate are quite excited about all the people that have come from all the 50 states, various nations of the world. And the seminars, I know, have been exciting. It's been a tremendous blessing to all of us. And so we really appreciate you being here. We appreciate your attention.

I might say that I had a great pleasure, a great chance to spend some time with Mother Teresa a few years ago in Calcutta, and I spent about two or three hours with her. It was one of the most fulfilling, rewarding experiences I ever had. She has an amazing ability to -- as she would take us around to her orphanages and AIDS clinics and places where people were very sick, near death, she has an amazing ability, this power of God as she touches people. She touches everybody, and she brings them and hugs them and loves them, and I felt that I was certainly in the presence of something magnificent and very powerful.

And she speaks in the language of Jesus. When you would ask her a question, she would answer back to you in the way -- as if you were talking to Jesus. Some people speak French, speak German. She speaks Jesus. (Laughter.) She's wonderful. (Applause.)

This city has been a great city for my wife and I. It's been a great city because my wife and I actually found God here, and we didn't know Him until we got here 15 years ago. And when I found out who He was, I wanted to tell everybody. As a matter of fact, I did tell everybody, and people would come over to me, and they'd say, "Tony, what's going on?" And

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I'd say, "You're not going to believe this, but I believe in Jesus." And it would get real quiet, and my wife would kick me under the table and say, "What's the matter with you? We're going to lose friends. What are you a Jesus freak of some kind?" (Laughter.)

And the interesting thing about is, I would ask her every night for six months, "Janet, did you say that prayer to receive Jesus?" And she'd say, "That's none of your business. Don't ask me. You're getting on my nerves. I don't like it." And the fact is that after six months, I didn't do it anymore because I got tired of doing it, she wasn't listening.

And it's very interesting. After six months of not preaching and not talking down to her and not judging her and not trying to push something on her, she really began to believe. And she says, "I believe because after you stopped doing all these things, you're life changed, your life changed before me."

And so it was quite a revelation to me. And as you read and as we study and love St. Francis of Assisi, he says a wonderful thing. He says, "We need to preach the Gospel, and sometimes we need to use words," which is very interesting. We don't have to preach, we don't have to shove it down people's throat; we demonstrate it.

And I think that's what this week is all about. That's what loving God and loving others is all about, is how to function, how do we function in the spiritual world. And we see tremendous examples here today, this morning, the seminars, and it's been a tremendous experience for all of us, and I'm just glad to be proud of it.

I'm going to introduce Susan Baker, who's going to introduce the First Lady, but before I do that, we want to bring you Kieran Dudley (phonetic), who is a young lady from Capetown, South Africa, and she's a great friend of this family. She's been here for two years, she's of tremendous service. She has a very sweet spirit about her, and everybody who comes in contact with her just is -- she affects them in a wonderful way. She always has a smile. So it's our pleasure to bring Kieran up here, and she's going to do a song for you. (Applause.)

(Ms. Dudley sings.) (Applause.)

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MR. HALL: Thank you, Kieran. We just heard this morning -- Andy Young was with us this morning, and his wife Jeannie is very sick. And, as you know, Andy Young was a member of Congress, a former ambassador to the United Nations, mayor of Atlanta, and he had to leave us and go back with his wife. So would you remember Andy and his wife Jeannie in your prayers?

It's now my pleasure to introduce Susan Baker, who is going to introduce the First Lady. And Susan Baker is, according to my wife and certainly according to my thinking, is one of the great ladies in this country. This family thinks that she has hung the moon, and I think so, too. She's a very gracious lady, she's a very warm lady. She works with a lot of different programs which people don't know about. And when she came to Washington with her husband, Jim Baker, she organized almost every wife of the cabinet in those days to work in various capacities throughout the city, in shelters and places like that. That's the kind of person she is.

She's also part of a small group of women that are bipartisan, both Republicans and Democrats, that pray, that meet together on a regular basis to pray for Hillary Clinton and her family.

And she is just a gracious lady, and we're so happy to have her with us. Susan Baker. (Applause.)

MS. BAKER: Thank you, dear Tony. I'll tell you, it's a real honor for me, and I have to admit, a little bit of surprise that I have the pleasure of introducing our speaker today. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend some personal time with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Now, strangely enough, she isn't at all like that person that I keep hearing about in the media that has the same name. (Laughter.) I've decided not to go into her long and very impressive c.v. because it would take all afternoon. Instead, I just want to tell you that I have found her to have, number one -- and I think this is crucial, particularly in this town -- a fabulous sense of humor. I mean, she has one of those laughs that is so deep it's contagious. I was thinking I really wanted to say belly laugh, but that doesn't quite go together with First Lady, so I didn't do that. (Laughter.)

You all know what a remarkable helpmate she is to her husband, but you may not know that she is a very, very

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wonderful parent. I mean, she understands her 13-year-old in a way that kind of boggles my mind. She and Chelsea won the mother-daughter game hands down. The rest of us flunked. (Laughter.)

She's also fearless. She's even willing to chase the chef at the White House out of his kitchen to cook Chelsea's and her husband's favorite meals.

She is a woman of incredible warmth and caring. It is real, it is genuine. She's also a woman who, not only wants us to pray for her, she asked for our prayers.

Now, we all know that this town is a really, really tough place. But many don't know that it is also a place that is full of pockets of grace. The International Foundation and other organizations for years have been cultivating small groups of men and women, men and women of different political parties, different religious persuasions, to get together to study the word of God, to pray, and to support each other.

Now, to say that we don't have differences with each other is not quite right. We do. There are many differences. But we agree to disagree in the spirit of Christ. The focus is on our points of shared interest, on our mutual caring for each other, really on our love for each other, and not on our differences.

There are meetings on the Hill, there are meetings in independent agencies and cabinet offices all around this town. There are many Republicans like myself who are praying daily for Hillary Rodham Clinton and the President.

When you go home, I hope that each one of you here will consider starting a little group, hopefully bipartisan, to pray for the leadership of this country. It is so important for our leaders, and it's so important for our nation. Nothing could be more important.

Now, will you all join me and let's pray for our First Lady. Dear Father in Heaven, we lift our First Lady to you today. We are so aware of the awesome responsibility you've placed on her and the President, and we ask special blessings on their lives as well as the life of their daughter Chelsea. We pray that she may have the gift of wisdom and discernment in all that she does, whether public or private. May the challenge of her jobs, the many hats she wears

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strengthen her faith and her dependence on you.

May she cultivate a forgiving heart, Lord, toward all the hard things a First Lady must endure. May she have the courage to brook opposition when it's right and the courage to see when things are wrong. May she grow in love and understanding of her foes, real or perceived, as well as her family and her friends. May she become better and not bitter in adversity. May she have the time to enjoy her successes and her husband's successes.

May her compassionate heart receive understanding. May she experience the grace and comfort of real friendship in spite of her impossible schedule. May there be time outs in her hectic life and refreshment for her body and her soul. May she and her family grow closer every day and experience the fun and the joy of quality time together.

And, finally, dear Lord, when her job is done, may she have that true peace and contentment of knowing that she has been a good and faithful servant in your service. Amen. (Applause.)



MS. CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you very much, and thank you, Susan, for that prayer and for the spirit that imbues you every day, that enables you to reach out to so many of us.

I must confess I am here with some trepidation. The last time I spoke in public about spirituality, around the time of my father's death, I was astonished to realize that there were many people for whom spirituality should be confined to events like this, and not brought out into the public arena. I was amused when one commentator wrote that my critics were divided between conservatives who suspect I did not mean what I said and liberals who feared that I did. (Laughter.)

And I have become accustomed over the past year to living between those kinds of poles and trying as best I can to navigate what is for many of us uncharted terrain. Because as my husband said this morning, freedom of religion does not mean, and should not mean, freedom from religion. And striking the appropriate balance, and being able to witness in a public role what one feels and lives through one's own spiritual journey, opens one up to misunderstanding and criticism.

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✓ But it is my very firm conviction that there is a growing awareness of the need for a spiritual renewal in our country and a willingness on the part of many to act and work in good faith together to fill that sense of emptiness with the Word and with an outreach that is grounded in real Christian values.

✓ I am indebted to
 ✓ I am indebted, as I stand here before you, at the end of my first year ~~in this position and~~ in this city, to many, many people. A new church home, which is an inner city church, struggling both to minister to the many needs that one finds in any of our cities as part of a social gospel, but also struggling to deal with the personal needs and demands that come through ~~all of~~ a congregation's individual search for salvation. Many friends who have been supportive and understanding of what it is like to make the kind of transition that my family has made.

✓ But I am particularly indebted to the group of women that Susan referred to, women who have reached out to me, not only by praying for me, but also by being my friend, who knew often just the right moment to call or to drop a note, to send a book, to let me know that they were thinking about me. ~~And~~ I have received many gifts in the year that I have been here, wonderful gifts, but none ~~have~~ meant more to me than the intangible gifts that were given to me at The Cedars a year ago by these women.

✓ And what I would like to do with all of you today is to convey to you the same intangible gifts. They are gifts that have stayed in my heart, have kept me going, have served as both balm and spur, and have helped enrich greatly my own sense of what we all mean when we use ~~the words we all use, coming from whatever particular perspective we inhabit,~~ words like "values," words like "spirituality," words like "renewal." ~~And~~ I am so grateful for these gifts that I want to share them with you.

✓ The first gift is the gift of compassion. This was given to me with the ~~admonition and~~ warning that I would be called upon to show compassion to endless lines of suffering ones. And the prayer that came with that gift of compassion was that I would never try to rely on my own reserves, but to draw freely and regularly from the ~~one~~ whose storehouse is always full.

omit [I have found this a very important gift. I have

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always understood and valued compassion, but it is difficult day in and day out, confronted by the many needs that are present, always to be able to reach out compassionately when one's own storehouse is near empty, and to be constantly reminded that it is not my storehouse that will fill itself on its own, but that it can always be filled if I remember from where that real reservoir of compassion comes.

~~And~~ The other part of the gift of compassion was the scriptural reference that came along with it. Mark 6:34: "As He went ashore he saw a great throng and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things."

We all need compassion. It is not only a gift that I have tried to give; it is a gift I have gratefully received.

The second gift was the gift of courage -- courage to stand strong in the midst of criticism, to give in when necessary, to take a risk when it's right, and, above all, to fear God alone, for the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

Courage is needed in our everyday life. Every one of us in this room needs the gift of courage. Sometimes we don't recognize when we need it. Sometimes we reject its offering, because it is frightening to use the gift of courage. But ~~if one believes that that~~ courage is not rooted in the day-to-day, but, instead, again, comes from the word of the Lord, ~~and the outreach to support one in the face of situations which demand courage -- and courage fills one also.~~

I can't say ~~that~~ I have necessarily needed courage in the last year to face risks that were public and large, where the enemies that were arrayed against me were visible, but I have certainly needed courage on many days just to keep going, to feel supported, to know that, even in the face of misunderstanding, there were risks that I felt called upon to take, and that I could never have done it without the courage that comes from God alone.

15 The third gift, and one of Susan Baker's favorite words, discernment, a word ~~that~~ I had never really paid much attention to before, not a word that I really associated with scripture. And I'm very grateful to have that word and its

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meaning now as part of my life.

~~I know that~~ The gift of discernment, ~~particularly~~ to seek wisdom that should come, ~~and~~ to know that it is through our Father that the spirit of revelation ~~often~~ gives us an insight into a person, an experience, an event that would not otherwise be available, has enriched and enlarged my life immeasurably.

~~And it is~~ When one ^{refers to} learns a new word, ~~that~~ one sees and hears it all the time. The Old Testament scripture this morning, if you remember, ~~was~~ the understanding to discern wisdom. So it's ~~just~~ one of those words now that I take with me and incorporate into my life with gratitude.

The next intangible gift, the greatest gift in many ways for all of us, is faith. "God is utterly faithful, and it is He who has called you into fellowship with his son Jesus Christ our Lord." That, from First Corinthians and ~~that~~ ~~from~~ one of my friends.

Faith is something ~~that~~ I take very seriously. I do not believe ~~that~~ I am a very good Christian. I think it is extremely hard to be a Christian. I think every day is a challenge to one's Christianity, and that by growing in faith, minute by minute, hour by hour, ~~that~~ faith becomes stronger and deeper and bigger and opens one's eyes to greater possibilities and further challenges.

One of my husband's former pastors, a great Southern Baptist preacher, W.O. Vaught (phonetic), used to preach often about "baby Christians." And, yes, you move through stages of maturation, but most of those whose Christian work I most respect are open always to learning more about their own faith, and knowing that there is no final answer until the end of one's life, and that part of what we must do is to grow in our faith and exhibit it. ~~and~~ Faith ~~is~~ is for me a great gift and a great challenge.

^{the first time} I remember I ever spoke in front of a religious group was in my church as a child, when, during confirmation, each of us were to stand and read our essays, "What Jesus Means to Me." ~~And~~ I recently re-read that essay of my 11-year-old self, and there was much that was very simple about my beliefs, but much that was also as profound as any theology I have read since. ~~So~~ one's faith journey is really for me ~~one's~~ continuing effort to grow in both wisdom and

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stature as a Christian.

The next gift was fellowship, and I am so grateful for that. The scripture that was used to convey that gift was from Proverbs, "A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity." ~~And~~ the prayer that went with it was for a sister to walk with me through adversity, to hold me up when the burdens are heavy, and to encourage and love me without condition. ✓

I have been blessed with many brothers and sisters who have been there for me, and I always hope that I can be as good a friend to others as they have been to me. Because it is through fellowship and relationship in Christ that one grows and sees what is possible with the human condition. ~~And without fellowship one's faith becomes too inward, too isolated. With fellowship one begins to see the full range of possibility.~~ ✓

The next gift is one I have needed on a daily basis. It is the gift of forgiveness. This gift came with the description that forgiveness is the most powerful expression of love we can give or experience. It is also the most costly. For the Lord, it was the cross; for me, it cost my pride. Forgiving is hard. Forgiving those who seem determined to destroy, to tear down, those who seem to have a political or financial or personal agenda; forgiving those who bear false witness, who delight in spreading stories, gossip, rumor. ✓

It is hard to forgive. But it ^{is} also essential, not only to live, but to grow in Christ, to forgive.

Remember when Jesus was asked, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother? Up to seven times? ~~Jesus answered, "I tell you not seven times, but seventy times seven."~~ ✓
(End side 1) ~~seven.~~

MS. CLINTON: -- what boundary. And I have always believed that Christ wanted us to be joyous, to look at the face of creation and to know that there was more joy than any of us could imagine. Or as Mother Teresa told us this morning, to see the joy on the face of a homeless beggar, who ~~was~~ picked up off the street and brought in to die, and says a joyously, "Thank you." ✓

~~I have to be reminded that~~ This world in which we

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~~I must confess that some days I think I must have~~ exhausted ~~that number and~~ look for a way to ~~avoid any more~~ calls on my spirit for forgiveness. ✓

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are engaged is serious, but joy ^{should} far outweighs any other experience, and what I hope ~~is that~~ I will never lose sight of the joy and ~~the~~ laughter that ~~goes with it, that~~ revitalizes the spirit, lightens our burden, brightens our way; And that I will also find joy in the trials ~~that~~ I face, and that you will as well, because I know that these trials or difficulties are part of God's plan.

The next gift is that of love. I particularly appreciated the description of this gift from my friend who wrote, "Over the past decade I have witnessed conflict between my friends who are Christians and those who are Democrats." (Laughter.) "They often act as if they each belong to an exclusive club. They appear to have little in common and are cynical of each other." But as she said, "My belief is that this is not true."

It is also my belief. There is no greater gift that God has given any of us than love, and every time I get discouraged by what I see as the nitpicking and the nay-saying that sometimes floods the air, I remember what Jesus said when he was asked which of all the commandments was the most important to follow, and he mentioned two. You know what they are. Both had to do with love. Because all the commandments were given to help us love God and love each other as we should.

It is very hard to do. It is so difficult for me to love some people. My husband has a much better and greater understanding. His mother was filled with unconditional love. You had to go so far to get her off of you. She wouldn't give up on the sorriest person you ever saw. I would sometimes have conversations with her where I would say, "Virginia, this person is" -- and I would fill in the blanks. And she'd just look at me and she'd say, "Well, all I know is that he's good to his mamma," or, "He's good to his dog," or he's good to somebody. (Laughter.) She taught me so much about love, unconditional love for people that weren't always the best that society had to offer.

As I've sat here, many of you have come up and introduced yourselves. You've been with Chuck Colson's prison ministries, you've been with urban ministries. Day in and day out you are called more than I to love those who need to see God's love through you. And I am grateful both for the love ~~that~~ I feel, and ~~I~~ hope to be able to give more of it. }

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The next gift was peace. Very hard to achieve. It seems ~~that~~ there is always a reason why your anxieties interrupt the peace ~~that~~ you seek. I pray along with my friend who gave me peace that God's perfect peace will envelop me as I face each day's demands and opportunities. That is not always the case. I try not to read the newspaper. I try not to watch the television on days when my peace is in a fragile condition. But it is something for which I seek.

And the gift of vision, seeing things which are often invisible to others, knowing that Jesus provided the ultimate vision of being the Way, the Truth and the Life, and that each of us, not only should have a vision, but inspire others by our vision.

Spiritual renewal often starts with a person's vision, a revelation, if you will, an idea planted by God and shared with others, trusting that the Holy Spirit will inspire similar thoughts in those with whom you ~~do~~ share *you*. Because when you encourage and inspire others to have a vision of what is possible through Christ, you put into action ways that will lead to the accomplishment of God's goals.

the gift of
And wisdom, a gift that we are always seeking. If any of you lack wisdom, you should ask God, as the scripture says, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But wisdom that comes from Heaven is, first of all, pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Wisdom. When I went to Sunday school years ago our books often talked about how Jesus grew in wisdom and stature. I think about that often because it is unlikely I will grow any further in stature, but I certainly hope I will grow more in wisdom as the years go by.

To these gifts I added the gift of prayer, an intangible, but all-pervasive gift that stays with me on a daily basis, that lifts me up, that helps me let off steam, that guides me. These are gifts that I am so grateful for. But beyond that, I am grateful for the spirit that offered them.

When I came here and was asked if I wanted to meet

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with a group of women, bipartisan, Republican and Democrat, conservative and liberal and all those labels that I think interfere with us seeing each other as people, I didn't know quite what to think, but finally decided ~~that~~ it was something I needed to do and have been very grateful that I did.

Remember I hope for all of us as we think through this day that brought people together from all over the world ~~and all together~~ *that we* ~~over the country~~ of the gifts we have to give and receive. The greatest gift ~~of~~ Christ's life to us and his example. *That* should guide us, challenge us, support us, not just at prayer breakfasts or prayer lunches, but every single day. If we approach these gifts with the humility that we should, then the chance of renewing one's own spirit and of that, ~~reaching~~ *reaching* out across our land becomes all the greater. And that would be a great gift for America. Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

MR. HALL: Thank you, Mrs. Clinton. We thank you for the tremendous amount of time that you've given us today. Both you and your husband spent a lot of time with us. And we thank you for your words of compassion and faith and courage and grace, forgiveness and joy, peace and love, and unconditional love.

And the one thing that we want to say, and we oftentimes have not said -- we need to say it more. It's always been one of the purposes of the National Prayer Breakfast for 50 years, is to let the President and his family know, whoever they may be, Republican or Democrat, that we care for them, that we love them, and we love them unconditionally, and that we will continue to pray for them and hold them up.

Thank you for your wonderful speech and for being such a great asset to our country. (Applause.)

I talked about my wife, but I didn't introduce her, Janet Hall, my friend. (Applause.)

Now, to conclude this afternoon, we have Reverend Dick Halverson (phonetic). He's a friend of all of us. He's probably one of the most respected chaplains that's ever served as advisor to many, and whenever I have any major decision to make, he's the first person I call. Dick Halverson. (Applause.)

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DR. HALVERSON: Thank you. Dear First Lady, our First Lady, thank you for these incalculable gifts. And as I listened, I realized you've given us gifts that are imperishable. And I speak for everyone in this room, thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

Let us pray. Our Father in Heaven, our hearts are very full for the blessings of this day. We thank You for Hillary, for Hillary Rodham Clinton, for our First Lady. Somehow impress upon us unforgettably the obligation -- the obligation -- which the word of God clearly lays upon us to pray for those in authority, to pray for our President and his family.

It is true they sought the office. It is also true that they serve by the consent of the people, which is fundamental in our political system. But even infinitely more important, Your word declares there is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained of God.

Today the White House is occupied by those whom God has ordained to be there, which lays upon each of us all the time a tremendous obligation to uphold our President and his First Lady and their daughter in daily prayer.

Somehow, Lord, I'm thinking of the marvelous promise in the New Testament, God works in everything for good to them who love Him and are called according to His purpose. May that text in Romans be very real in the White House, and may they realize that even though some of the things that happen are not good, God is working in them for good. And grant to them the grace, with all of the criticism, all of the gossip, all of the anger and sometimes hatred, that when we do it, not only do we deny our faith, but deny the very political system which is the foundation of our national life.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

ALL: Amen. (Applause.)

MR. HALL: We're through.

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