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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

National Bible Week
November 24 - December 1, 1974

The celebration of National Bible Week gives me the opportunity to share with my fellow Americans my special regard for the Scriptures as a unifying source of wisdom and inspiration. I welcome the privilege of serving as Honorary Chairman of this annual observance.

The dedicated members of the Laymen's National Bible Committee who yearly sponsor this event deserve to be commended on their efforts to promote greater knowledge, use and understanding of the Holy Book. Their endeavors are a strong force for good in our daily lives.

Bible reading has been a tradition in my family for as long as I can remember. I firmly believe that one can experience great solace and encouragement from the Bible's timeless and stirring passages. My personal favorite of these is from the Third Chapter, fifth and sixth verses of the Book of Proverbs:

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine own understanding. "

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and
He shall direct thy paths. "

It was not chance that led me to have my Bible opened to these words as I took the oath of Office of President of the United States. Rather, it was my firm belief in their meaning -- a belief that has made them my daily prayer.

Gerald R. Ford

