

The original documents are located in Box 37, “8/5/76 - Filmed Message for the Christian Broadcasting Network Special Program on Prayer (Includes briefing paper)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TAPING: August 5, 1976
12 Noon

EVENT: Christian Broadcasting Network
Special Program on Prayer

DATE: September 18, 1976

PURPOSE: A special program stressing the need for prayer in America will be aired over 133 television stations via the Christian Broadcasting Network, which is headed by Pat Robertson, son of the former Senator from Virginia.

BACKGROUND: CBN is a powerful voice of the evangelical movement in America. The network is sending letters to more than 23,000 pastors throughout the U. S., calling attention to this special event. A similar taping request has been made of Governor Carter. The audience is largely comprised of religious and political conservatives.

TAPE FOR CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK

I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN PAT ROBERTSON
AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK
FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL HOUR OF PRAYER.

AN OLD HYMN, I AM SURE YOU KNOW, TELLS OF A "SWEET
HOUR OF PRAYER THAT CALLS ME FROM A WORLD OF CARE."

AS PRESIDENT, DEALING EVERY DAY WITH THE PROBLEMS
OF THE NATION AND THE WORLD, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT PRAYER
PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MY LIFE AND MY WORK.

PRAYER HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INSPIRING SOURCE OF STRENGTH
AND PEACE FOR ME, AND IT HAS REMAINED VERY IMPORTANT TO ME
AS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MY PUBLIC SERVICE HAVE GROWN.

THE STANDARDS OF HONESTY AND DECENCY WHICH PRAYER
REINFORCES ARE ESSENTIAL TO REAL SUCCESS IN PUBLIC SERVICE.
THERE IS NO REASON THAT PUBLIC OFFICIALS SHOULD ABANDON THOSE
STANDARDS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE.

I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT PRIVATE MORALITY AND
PUBLIC SERVICE CAN -- AND MUST -- GO HAND IN HAND.
PRAYER CAN BE A POWERFUL BRIDGE BETWEEN THE TWO.

MY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ALWAYS TAUGHT ME THAT
WHATEVER CAREER ONE PURSUES, WHATEVER YOUR STATION IN LIFE,
THERE IS ROOM IN YOUR LIFE, AND TIME IN YOUR LIFE, AND A NEED
IN YOUR LIFE FOR PRAYER.

THAT LESSON IS AS TRUE FOR PRESIDENTS AS IT IS FOR FARMERS AND LABORERS, BUSINESSMEN AND HOUSEWIVES.

THAT IS THE MESSAGE WHICH THIS BROADCAST SEEKS TO ILLUSTRATE, AND I AM GLAD TO JOIN IN THIS VERY WORTHWHILE EFFORT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT
