

we must correct these wrongs. We must act to exempt the blind, frail, and elderly legal residents from the unintended effects of welfare reform, and we must give these residents the amount of time necessary to take the naturalization test.

It goes without saying that our own INS office employees should be sensitive to and comply with the dictates of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mr. Speaker, it is up to us to act now. We must write a new ending, one that averts senseless and most certainly lethal suffering.

THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BARRETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I had the distinct pleasure and the great honor of chairing the 45th annual National Prayer Breakfast here in Washington.

Now, this is an annual event that is hosted by the Senate prayer group and the House prayer group, and it represents an effort by many thousands of people to come together once a year here in our Nation's Capital in prayerful reflection. The breakfast was initially founded as an opportunity for Members of Congress to express spiritual support for the President, for the leaders of our Nation and, of course, for each other.

This year more than 4,000 people came to the breakfast from all 50 States and from over 140 countries. The personal contacts we all had from across the Nation, from around the world, were something that were impressions that will last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues on the congressional committee that planned this most recent breakfast, I provide a copy of the transcript of that breakfast to be inserted in the RECORD so that everyone might read the uplifting and inspirational messages we heard that day.

THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, THE WASHINGTON HILTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1997

Representative BILL BARRETT: It's a special privilege for me to be able to welcome each and every one of you here this morning to the 45th annual National Prayer Breakfast, especially our friends from around the world, as well as those of you who are attending the prayer breakfast for the first time. God created us at different times and in different places, and with the flesh of a hundred different hues, but he did set us forth with a very common purpose; to love the Lord, our God, and to love our neighbor as ourself.

We're gathered here today from six continents. I don't believe the Antarctica delegation has arrived yet. Ladies and gentlemen, there are nearly 170 countries represented here today—all 50 states are represented here today—here in this ballroom and in auxiliary rooms in which people who could not get into the ballroom are seated, viewing this on television.

We have nearly 4,000 people gathered for the 45th annual prayer breakfast. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, people from all professions, all fields of service. We have laborers, we have prison parolees here, we have street people here. We have people of considerable wealth; we have people with little material wealth. There are people from all levels of society, all backgrounds, religiously and politically. There is represented here today truly a cross-section of our world.

Who we are is not the important point. The point is that we all come together to let each other know that we care. We come here to humbly beseech guidance; to further the building of humankind, recognizing and acknowledging the reliance that each of us has on Divine Providence. What a happy time it is that so many have chosen to join us this morning in the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth and to share this time together.

From the reports that we hear, read and observe, it's probably difficult to believe that members of Congress can ever agree with one another or find it possible to be perfectly united in mind and thought, as St. Paul admonished us to do. But it's my pleasant duty to bring to you greetings from the House of Representatives' Prayer Breakfast.

One of the most meaningful experiences for me since I've been a member of Congress has been to attend that prayer breakfast, in which we gather every Thursday morning in the Capitol at 8:00, in a time of fellowship and prayer with our colleagues. On these mornings, 40 to 50 Democrats and Republicans, without guests, with the exception of an occasional parliamentarian from another nation who is a member of a prayer group in that nation, or perhaps a parliamentarian who wants to come and observe our prayer breakfast, with the thought in mind of going back to his or her country and establishing a similar prayer breakfast. We meet simply to find fellowship in the spirit of Christ and to share burdens with each other.

We leave our differences outside the door. Labels remain outside the door. We get to know each other on a basis of something that transcends the labels that often divide us during the rest of the week. As a result, many special and many unlikely friendships have been born and even nurtured during that time together.

Our speaker each week—one week a Republican, one week a Democrat—is always a member of Congress, but no necessarily a member of our prayer group. We hear from that person, in which they share with us something that they want to talk about—perhaps some of the trauma in their life, some of the problems, some of the joys, some of the satisfactions, some of the triumphs. We've had some wonderful messages and, with each one, inspiration, better understanding and, of course, close friendships. And because of the seeds that were planted by the House and the Senate fellowship groups 45 years ago the National Prayer Breakfast, this prayer breakfast, has grown to include people from so many countries that we have to wonder today if we should perhaps rename the National Prayer Breakfast to "the International Prayer Breakfast."

So on behalf of both the Senate and the House prayer groups, who are hosting this breakfast, we thank you for sharing with us. We also acknowledge the hundreds of groups that are meeting simultaneously around the world as we meet here together at this particular moment—meeting around the world to praise the Lord.

Many of you know that Billy Graham has been a steadfast member of this national prayer group—I believe he has missed only

three National Prayer Breakfasts in 45 years. Dr. Graham had hoped to be with us today, but his health prevents it. And I'd like to share with you a message that I received from Dr. Graham.

"I hear constantly the impact that the Prayer Breakfast is having throughout the world. Since this is one of the few times I have every missed being at a breakfast since its beginning, I will certainly be in prayer that God will make this gathering one of the most significant prayer breakfasts we've ever had. Give my warmest greetings and affection to all of those in attendance, especially the president, Mrs. Clinton, the vice president, and Mrs. Gore.

"With warmest affection in Christ, I am cordially yours, Billy Graham."

The gentleman from Missouri, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Richard Gephardt, will now read from the Old Testament.

Representative GEPHARDT: Our Old Testament reading this morning is from Psalms. "Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all your lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord He is God. It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name for the Lord is good. His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."

Representative BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Minority Leader.

It's a tradition of the National Prayer Breakfast that a person of very special talent is chosen to present a solo at our breakfast. This morning we are thrilled to be able to present a young opera star of unparalleled prospect, a mezzo-soprano who has made a number of important debuts both here and in Europe. Please welcome Ms. Denyce Graves.

(Ms. Graves sings "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Every Time I Feel the Spirit")

Representative BARRETT: What a thrill, right? Thank you, Ms. Graves.

The Scripture from the New Testament will be brought to us by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Georgia, the Honorable Newt Gingrich.

Speaker NEWT GINGRICH (R-GA): Let me just say that I think all of our hearts, I hope, were touched by Ms. Graves just now. It was truly a wonderful moment.

I'm going to read from John 3, verses 12 to 21.

"If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man has ascended up to heaven but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man, which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation: that light is come unto the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh in the light, that his deeds made be made manifest, that they wrought in God."

Representative BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that reading from the New Testament.

Vice President Al Gore was a very faithful member of the House prayer group when he was a member of the House. And when he entered the Senate, he became a very faithful member of the prayer group as well. And as a result, the Senate prayer group has asked him to represent them in delivering remarks of the Senate. And it's encouraging to know, Mr. Vice President, that one of our own can occasionally succeed.

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the vice president of the United States, Mr. Albert Gore Jr.

Vice President GORE: Thank you. Thank you very much, Bill.

Mr. President and Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Speaker; leader Gephardt, other distinguished guests at the head table; and senators, congressmen; heads of state from other countries; thank you very much for your attendance; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, including those in the overflow room, we're so proud that you are here. And among those at the head table, allow me just a brief personal word.

Dr. Ben Carson—I had nothing to do with the invitation to Dr. Carson to be the main speaker this year. But after Tipper and I found out that he was going to be our speaker, we recalled that when one of our children was seriously injured and in Johns Hopkins Hospital, he was part of the medical team that consulted with us. We are among the thousands of families who are grateful to you and the others healers among us, Dr. Carson. It was a pleasure to meet your sons, Murray, Den, and Royce, in the other room.

Bill said that I was invited to bring greetings from the Senate prayer breakfast group because I was a faithful member of it. The truth is that with my travels on behalf of the president and the White House schedule, they invited me to give greetings on their behalf so that I will definitely become a faithful member of the Senate prayer breakfast. I know what they're doing. And it's true that my schedule has taken me away from it. But your ploy is going to work.

May I also refer to the many thousands of prayer groups around the United States that are represented by many of you here, and around the world. I want to acknowledge a group represented here—the Religious Partnership for the Environment. I am proud to have had a chance to meet frequently with them.

Since we met here last year, something has happened that I wanted to briefly comment upon: Churches were burned, synagogues and other houses of worship were burned, and a great outpouring of national concern took place.

Many wondered, "How could we respond to this?" I know the president gathered spiritual leaders from various denominations to talk about this issue. The House and the Senate took action. There was no dissent. I forget the vote in the House, but it was 100 to nothing in the Senate. It's rare that you get a vote of that kind. And the country began to come together to respond to this challenge.

Churches were rebuilt. Some of them that had been burned to the ground left the congregations just devastated. I remember visiting one, looking at the ashes covering the timbers, and the congregation expressed its determination to come back together and rebuild.

On August 19th, the president and the first lady, Tipper, and I went to a church that had been burned in Tennessee and joined in rebuilding the church. When we got there, we learned that there had been two churches burned—one with a white congregation, one with a black congregation. When the church with a white congregation burned, the first donation to rebuild it came from the black

congregation just two miles away. About a year later, when the church with the black congregation burned, the first donation to rebuild it came from the church with the white congregation. On that day when we gathered with hammers and nails and paint brushes to rebuild it, all of the community leaders came. The African American pastor of this congregation made note of the fact that some of the county leaders who were present were individuals he had never met before, and the members of the white congregation who came had never met their counterparts, in many cases, before. He cited a verse from Genesis 50: "Man intended it for evil, but God intended it for good." The president spoke and said, "You can burn the building, but you cannot burn out the faith."

I was reminded of the examples in the Bible of fires that burned but do not consume. In Exodus Chapter 3, Moses is confronted with a burning bush. "Though the bush was on fire, it did not burn up." Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight, why the bush does not burn up." God called to him from within the bush: 'Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.'

In the book of Daniel, Chapter 3, verse 19, Nebuchadnezzar orders his furnace heated up seven times hotter than usual, and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and throw them into the blazing furnace. They had refused, of course, to bow down to graven images and idols. And when they were thrown into the furnace—you know the story well—the soldiers were burned. But Nebuchadnezzar looks into the flames, and in amazement asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied "Certainly, o king." He said "Look, I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed. And the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

The three were taken out, and they saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their head singed. Their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

In response to such challenges, we are called to be present with those who are persecuted.

Finally, when we saw the rebuilt church brought—the image of it brought in the photograph when this minister revisited the White House earlier this year, I was reminded of the famous chapter in Ezekiel 37, when Ezekiel is placed in the valley.

"And I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. And the Lord asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' And then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord,"' So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. Tendons and flesh appeared on them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them. And then he said to me: 'Prophesy to the breath. Prophesy, son of Man. And say to it, "This is what the sovereign Lord says, 'Come from the four winds, oh breath, and breathe into these slain that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them. They came to life and stood up on their feet a vast army."

These houses of worship have been lifted back up, and the breath of the Spirit has been breathed into them. May the same thing happen to our hurting nation.

Representative BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

To deliver our prayer for the national and international leaders, I would like to recognize the senator from Indiana Senator Dan

Coats, who is a very faithful member of the Senate prayer breakfast. It's my pleasure to introduce the senator for the most basic purpose of this breakfast, to let our leaders know that we are praying for them.

Senator DAN COATS (R-IN): Please bow your heads with me in prayer and join your hearts with me in prayer.

Our Lord and our God, we have set aside this day of prayer to acknowledge you and you alone, as the God of men and nations; to thank you for your loving kindness toward each of us, and to humbly ask for wisdom and discernment as we seek to serve the people of our land. We ask for your mercy and divine forgiveness for our sins, for we often rely on our ways and not on yours.

We are divided by barriers of anger and suspicion. We are shamed by the commonplace violence in our nation. We have failed to protect the innocence of our children, and we have left them to moral confusion and early despair. We have misunderstood both the cause and the cure of our troubles. We see social and political problems; You see our failures of love and duty and commitment. We talk of politics and laws; You weigh the desires of our hearts. We propose solutions for others; You ask us to examine ourselves.

Lord, each of us in some way has set out to change our society. But now, today, we humbly ask you to change each of us. We are thankful, Lord, that Your mercy does not depend on our merit. We are grateful that the Gospel is a story of failure forgiven.

Lord, we pray for the leaders You have brought to this room. Preserve us from the pride of power. Guard us from self-interest and selfish ambition. May we build careers of honorable service, obeying Your command to do justice, to seek mercy, and to walk humbly with You.

We pray above all for inward surrender to Your guidance, hearts transformed by an encounter with the living God, and lives marked with Your meaning. We pray these things in the confidence and comfort given by Jesus Christ. Amen.

Representative BARRETT: Thank you so much, Senator Coats, for those words.

It's now my pleasure to present to you our featured speaker at this prayer breakfast, Dr. Benjamin Carson, who is director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Carson is well renowned in his field—most notably, perhaps, the 1987 separation of the Binder twins in Germany, which of course were attached at the head.

Dr. Carson has led a life of struggle as well as triumph, and I know that you're going to find his remarks both interesting and very inspiring. He brings us his love for children. He's a living example of caring and compassion. Please welcome Dr. Ben Carson.

Dr. BENJAMIN CARSON: Thank you very much. It's a real pleasure and an honor to be here before so many distinguished people. I don't feel that I really belong here under these circumstances. But the nice thing is, when it comes to love that is inspired by Jesus Christ, we're all equal. And it makes you feel good. You begin to realize that He's the one who empowers us to do whatever we do and to go wherever we go.

I want to give you some little vignettes from my own life and how my relationship with God developed. Let me set my stopwatch here because I understand that if I go overtime, the Secret Service will take me away.

I always wanted to be a missionary doctor. I used to listen to the mission stories in church, and they frequently featured missionary doctors—people who, at great personal expense, would go to foreign lands and bring not only physical but mental and spiritual healing to people. It seemed like the

most noble thing a person could do. I harbored that dream from the time I was 8 years old until I was 13, at which time, having grown up in dire poverty, I decided I'd rather be rich. So at that point, missionary doctor was out and I decided I wanted to be a psychiatrist. Now I didn't know any psychiatrists, but on television, they seemed like very rich people. They lived in these big fancy mansions and drove Jaguars and had these big plush offices, and all they had to do is talk to crazy people all day. It seemed like I was doing that anyway, so I said, "This should work out quite well," and started reading *Psychology Today*. I was the local shrink. I majored in psychology in college, did advanced psych when I went to medical school.

But that's when I started meeting a bunch of psychiatrists. Now, some of my best friends are psychiatrists. Actually, on a serious note, some of the smartest people I know really are psychiatrists and I'm a little bit miffed, as a medical professional, as to why the insurance companies and HMOs are giving psychiatrists such a hard time. I hope we'll do something about that.

I discovered that I wasn't going to be a psychiatrist and I had to stop and ask myself "What are you really good at?" I discovered I had a lot of eye-hand coordination, the ability to think in three dimensions. I was a very careful person, never knocked things over and said "oops!" and I enjoyed the brain. So I put all that together and that's how I came up with neurosurgery.

If you had seen me as a youngster, and someone had told you that I was going to grow up to be a neurosurgeon, much less chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins, you would have laughed until you died, because there was unanimous agreement amongst my classmates, my teachers, and myself that I was the dumbest person in the world. I was always the first one to sit down in a spelling bee, got big goose eggs on everything that dealt with academics.

I remember one time we were taking this math quiz, and I had a major philosophical disagreement with my math teacher who seemed to think it was important to know your time tables. As far as I was concerned, why waste my time learning those when I could look them up on the back of the notebook? So you can imagine what kind of grades I got in math. But that particular day I'd been having a discussion with some of my classmates about lack of intellectual agility, one might say. In fact, they were saying I was the dumbest person in the world, and I was disputing that. We had a math quiz that day. I had about thirty questions. And in those days you would pass your test to the person behind you, and they would correct it as the teacher called out the answers, give it back to you. The teacher would call your name out loud and you would report your score out loud.

Well, I had gotten my usual zero. But, on this particular day, having had those discussions, I was looking for a way to hide that fact from my classmates, so I schemed and I said, "When the teacher calls my name, I'm going to mumble. And maybe she will misinterpret what I said."

So when she called my name, I said, "Nnnnn." And she said: "Nine?" Benjamin, you got nine right? Oh, this is wonderful. This is the greatest day of my life. I told you you could do it if you just applied yourself." She ranted and raved for about five minutes. Finally, the girl behind me couldn't take it any longer. She stood up and said, "He said none." Of course the kids roared with laughter, and the teacher sat down quite embarrassed. If I could have disappeared into thin air, never to be heard from again in the history of the world, I would gladly have done so, but I couldn't.

The thing that really hurt was when I got my report card at mid-term, and my poor mother saw it, and she was just distraught. There I was failing almost every subject, and there she was, working two or three jobs at a time as a single parent, trying to raise her young sons in inner-city Detroit, realizing what a difficult time she had because of her lack of education, having had only a third-grade education herself. Then there I was going down the same path; my brother also doing quite poorly.

She did not know what to do, and she prayed and asked God to give her wisdom. What could she do to get her young sons to understand the importance of intellectual development so that they could have control of their own lives? And you know something? God gave her the wisdom, at least in her opinion. My brother and I didn't think it was all that wise because it was to turn off the TV set and let us watch only two or three TV programs during the week. With all that spare time, we read two books apiece from the Detroit Public Library and submit to her written book reports which she couldn't read, but we didn't know that. So she had pulled a fast one on us.

I was in no way enthusiastic about this program. All my friends were outside having a good time, and there I was, inside, reading. A lot of times parents come to me today, and they say: "How was your mother able to get you and your brother to turn off the TV and read? I can't get my children to do that." I have to chuckle and I say, "Back in those days, the parents were in charge of the house. They didn't have to get permission from the kids how to run it."

Interestingly enough, because of the reading—always reading, I learned how to spell, so I wasn't the first one to sit down in a spelling bee. I learned grammar and syntax because I had to put those words together. I learned to use my imagination because I had to take those sentences and make them into concepts. Within the space of a year and a half, I went from the bottom of the class to the top of the class, much to the consternation of all those people who called me "dummy." The same ones were coming to me now and saying, "Hey, Benny, how do you work this math problem?" I would say, "Sit at my feet, youngster, while I instruct you." I was perhaps a little obnoxious but it sure did feel good to do that.

The fact of the matter is, what am I talking about? I'm talking about a person's image and self-concept. When I was in the fifth grade, I thought I was dumb, and I acted like a dumb person, and I achieved like a dumb person. When I was in the seventh grade, I thought I was smart, and I acted and achieved accordingly. Does that say a lot about the human brain, about the potential that our Creator has given us?

Think about it. There is no computer on Earth that comes close to the capacity of the normal human brain. How many people here remember your home telephone number? Okay, that's pretty good for a bunch of people in Washington. What did your brain have to do for you to react to that question? First of all, the sound waves had to leave my lips, travel through the air into your external auditory meatus, travel down to your tympanic membrane, set up a vibratory force, which traveled across the ossicles of your middle ear to the oval and round windows, setting up a vibratory force in the endolymph, which mechanically distorted the microcilia, converting mechanical energy to electrical energy, which traveled across the cochlear nerve to the cochlear nucleus at the pontomedullary junction, from there to the superior olfactory nucleus—wait a minute, we've got a ways to go—ascending bilaterally up the brain stem to the lateral lemniscus, to

the inferior colliculus and the media geniculate nuclei, across the thalamic radiations to the posterior temporal lobes to begin the auditory process; from there to the frontal lobes, coming down the tract of Vicq d' Azyr, retrieving the memory from the medial hippocampal structures of the mammary bodies, back to the frontal lobes to start the motor response at the Betz cell level, coming down the corticospinal tract, across the internal capsule into the cerebral peduncle, descending down to the cervicomedullary decussation into the spinal cord gray matter, synapsing, going out to the neuro-muscular junction, stimulating the nerve in the muscle so you could raise your hand. Due to our limited time, I didn't want to get into the complexities. But the fact of that matter is, you could do that, and you barely had to think about it. Can you imagine what the human brain is capable of if people actually put some time and thought into things?

This is the thing that is so disturbing to me. When I see surveys about how our young people are doing in school vis-a-vis other industrialized nations—notwithstanding the outstanding individuals that the president pointed out the other day in the State of the Union address. That's the exception and not the rule. We have to change that as we enter the information age. We have to change the tremendous emphasis on sports and entertainment, and life-styles of the rich and famous. Because there are other great nations that went that pathway: Egypt, Greece, Rome. They were all at the pinnacle, just like the U.S.A., and then they forgot about the things that made them great, and they became enamored of the things that weren't so important. Where are they today? Some people think that that can't happen here, but it can. We have a real obligation to do something to change that.

You would think that having realized that, life was going to be wonderful for me. But it wasn't. You see, I had this problem with my temper. I was one of those people who thought I had a lot of rights. Have you ever met anybody like that? It's like when you're driving in your car and somebody gets in your lane—the one you own and paid for and you begin to dictate to them how they should be driving? Well, this was me. I thought I had a lot of rights.

I remember one time a kid hit me with a pebble. It didn't hurt. I was so incensed, I grabbed a big rock and I threw it at him and broke his glasses, almost put his eye out. Another time, a kid was trying to close my locker at school. I didn't want it closed, and I hit him in the head. Unfortunately, I had my lock in my hand and put a three-inch gash in his forehead. Another time, my mother was trying to get me to wear something. I didn't want to wear it. I picked up a hammer and tried to hit her in the head with it. Other than that, I was a pretty good kid.

But it all sort of culminated one day when another kid did something I didn't like. I had a large camping knife and I tried to stab him in the abdomen. Fortunately, under his clothing, he had a large metal belt buckle and the blade struck it with such force that it broke, and he fled in terror and I ran to the bathroom and started thinking about my life.

A few years ago, I was in San Quentin—as a speaker—and I was looking out over those hardened faces, and realizing that, except for the grace of God and our Lord and Savior, I could easily have ended up in a place like that myself. Sometimes it does us good to think about that when we believe how high and mighty we are, that except for certain circumstances, things might have been quite different for us.

We need to learn how to be compassionate and how to put ourselves in other people's

places. As I was in that bathroom, thinking about my life, having turned things around academically, I realized that with that temper there was no possibility of me ever achieving my dream of becoming a physician. I fell on my knees and I began to pray. I said: "Lord, I cannot control this temper." I said: "It's up to you. I am giving it over to you."

I picked up my Bible. I started reading from the Book of Proverbs. There were so many verses in there about anger, the trouble that people get into: "If you deliver an angry man, you're going to have to keep doing it"; Proverbs, 19:19. "Like a city that is broken down and without walls is the man who cannot control his temper"; Proverbs, 25:28. Also verses about how God admired people who could control their temper; Proverbs, 16:32: "Mightier is the man who can control his temper than the man who can conquer a city." It seemed like, verse after verse, chapter after chapter, they were all written for me. After three hours in that bathroom, I came out of there, and the temper was gone. I've never had another problem with it since that day.

I knew that it was our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who did that for me. I began to understand that we have not only a heavenly Father, but I adopted God as my earthly Father; somebody that I could go to, somebody who was a nice guy; somebody who didn't force himself upon you but someone who, if you allowed him to be in your life and to control your life, would make it something special, something wonderful, would give you perspective and understanding; the ability to look at things from other people's points of view, rather than castigating people who disagree with you putting them in a corner and throwing stones at them, like so many people are prone to do. I think the more highly civilized a society is, the less likely they are to do that; the more likely they are to be able to engage in intelligent conversation, discussing their differences and arriving at common solutions.

There is a segment of our society that I am particularly concerned about; who seem to be affected by the things that I've talked about; the temper, the outrage, the lack of intellectual development. It's the young black males in our society in America. We've all heard the young black male in this society is an endangered species. Why do people say that? Because there are more young black males in jail than there are in college.

And you know the interesting thing? My good friend Wintley Phipps told me that 90 to 95 percent of those people in prison grew up in homes without fathers. Does that tell us something? Something about what we need to be doing as a society in terms of reaching out and providing appropriate role models for individuals?

Why do we have this dismal situation occurring? Some people say: "I am not a black male, so it doesn't affect me. It's not my problem." I beg to differ with you because all of our ancestors came to this country in different boats. But we're all in the same boat now. And if part of the boat sinks, eventually the rest of it goes down, too. We have to understand that.

The interesting thing is that young black males never had to become that way. Those of you who are in education know that young black males in the kindergarten, first grade, second grade, are as good a students as anybody else. Then something happens along the way. What happens? They start reading in American history about this great nation of ours and they discover that there's nobody in there who looks like them who did anything of significance. They say, "Well, maybe next year, when I take world history." Then they discover there's nobody who looks like them

who did anything of significance, then they come home and they turn their TV on, and they say, "Oh! There I am. Playing football and basketball and baseball, and rapping in these baggy pants that look like you could fly in them, and acting a fool on some sitcoms."

You begin to develop certain self-images, certain concepts: "That's how I'm going to make it. I'm going to become the next Michael Jordan." The media doesn't tell them that only seven in one million will make it as a starter in the NBA; that only one in ten thousand make it in any lasting way in sports and entertainment.

We need to emphasize the right things. I wish we had a program that came on television every day, called "Lifestyles of the Formerly Rich and Famous," so that they could find out what happens to many of these people, because it's not as glamorous as we make it out to be. We need to emphasize the intellect.

But, they don't have that emphasis. And then they find out later on that they're not going to be a sports star or in entertainment. What's left? Up drives this big black BMW with tinted glass, out steps this tall gentleman, jewels and furs and women, and he says "Wouldn't you like to have some of what I have? That society sold you a bill of goods. Let me show you how you get it." Hence, we have people who do some things that none of us can imagine that a human being would do, because they feel betrayed by society.

That's part of it, part of the sociology. That's not all of it, but it's part of it. It's something that should give us pause, but it never had to happen. Any of us could have taken that young man at age 6, and walked down the streets of Washington, D.C., and given him a lesson that would have thrilled his heart, a black history lesson that could have started by pointing to his shoes and saying "It was Jan Matzlinger, a black man, who invented the automatic shoe-lasting machine which revolutionized the shoe industry throughout the world." Step on that clean street, they can tell him about Charles Brooks, who invented the automatic street-sweeper. Down that clean street comes one of those big refrigerated trucks and you can tell him about Frederick Jones, who invented the refrigeration system for trucks, later adopted for airplanes and trains and boats. It stops at the red light, and you can tell him about Garrett Morgan, a black man who invented the stop sign, the stop signal, and also invented the gas mask, saved lots of lives during the war.

You can tell him about Henrietta Bradbury, a black woman who invented the underwater cannon, made it possible to launch torpedoes from submarines. And a black woman is walking down the street—a black man did not invent her—but you can take that opportunity to talk about Madame C.J. Walker, a black woman who invented cosmetic products for women of dark complexion, was the first woman of any nationality in this nation to become a millionaire on her own efforts.

You walk past the hospital, and you can talk about Charles Drew and his contributions to blood banking, blood plasma, and Daniel Hale Williams, the first successful open heart surgeon. You look up at the surgical light, Thomas Edison—you didn't know he was black, did you? He wasn't, but his right-hand man, Lewis Lattimer, was. Lewis Lattimer came up with the filament that made the light bulb work, pioneered research in fluorescent lighting, diagrammed the telephone for Alexander Graham Bell. People don't even know who Lewis Lattimer was.

You walk by the railroad tracks: Andrew Beard, automatic railroad car coupler,

helped spur on the industrial revolution. Elijah McCoy had so many great inventions, like the automatic lubricating machine for engines, that people were saying when something big in the industrial era came up, "Is that a McCoy? Is that the real McCoy?" You got racist people like David Duke running around talking about "the real McCoy," don't even know who they're paying homage to.

And I'm just scratching the surface. I'm barely scratching the surface.

Here's what's interesting: I can take that same walk down the street for any group, any ethnic group in this nation, and point out tremendous contributions, because the fact of the matter is we have all made enormous contributions to this nation. That's how this nation got to be number one faster than any other nation in the history of the world, because we have people here from every place, from all corners of the earth. This is not a problem, this is a good thing.

Think about it. How many people here would want to go to the National Zoo and pay money to get in there if every animal was a Thompson's Gazelle? It wouldn't be that interesting would it? How many people would go downtown Baltimore to the National Aquarium, pay to get in there, if every fish were a goldfish? How many people want a bouquet of flowers if every one was identical? And how many people would want to get up in the morning, if everybody looked exactly like you? Think about it. In some cases, it would be a disaster.

I think we should praise our Heavenly Father for giving us diversity, and please, let's not let those people with small minds make that into a problem. We don't have to do that.

Let me close quickly by saying I really feel that we have to get this into our young people, this idea about our diversity being our strength, this ideal about developing ourselves intellectually. What if everybody in this room, with all your influence, wrote a letter to Kellogg's and General Mills, when you went home, and said, put on your cereal boxes Nobel Prize winners and people of intellect instead of just people who use sports and entertainment, and our young people could read about them when they were eating their cereal in the morning.

Just those kinds of things will make a big difference. It helped me to have a very rapid rise in my career, and it came up with my philosophy for success in life: Think big.

The "T" is for talent, which God gave to everybody—not just the ability to sing and dance and throw a ball. Don't get me wrong; I love sports and entertainment. I love sports stars and entertainers, but it's not the most important thing. Intellect—we need to develop that. We need to emphasize it.

Honesty—lead a clean and honest life. You won't have to worry about skeletons in the closet coming back to haunt you just when you don't want to see them. If you always tell the truth, you don't have to try to remember what you said three months ago. What a difference that makes.

The "I" is for insight, which comes from listening to people who have already gone where you're trying to go. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, said, "Wise is the person who can learn from someone else's triumphs and mistakes." He said, "The person who cannot is a fool."

The "N" is for nice. Be nice to people, because once they get over their suspicion of why you're being nice, they'll be nice to you. If you're not nice, try it for just one week. Try for one week not saying something bad about anybody and being nice to everybody. You'll see it makes a big difference, and you won't go back.

The "K" is for knowledge, which is the thing that makes you into a more valuable person.

You ask—do I have a big house? Yes. Do I have many cars? Yes. I grew up in Detroit. I like cars. Do I have a lot of things that "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" thinks are important? Yes, I do, but they're not important. Guess what: If somebody comes and takes all those things away from me today, it's no big deal. Why? Because I can get them all right back with what's up here—at least I could before managed care. That's what Solomon was talking about when he said gold is nice, silver is nice, rubies are nice, but to be cherished far above those: knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, because he knew with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, you could get all the gold and silver and rubies you wanted. More importantly, he knew, with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, you would come to understand that they—gold and silver and rubies—are not important, that the important thing is developing your God-given talents to the point where you become valuable to the people around you.

The "B" is for books. I've already talked about the importance of reading.

I want you to know that my mother did eventually teach herself how to read. She finished high school. She went on to college. And in 1994 she got an honorary doctorate degree. It's never too late. It's never too late.

The second "I" is for in-depth learning, learning for the sake of knowledge and understanding, as opposed to superficial learners who cram, cram, cram before an exam, sometimes do okay, and three weeks later know nothing. I am sure no one here knows anyone like that.

The "G," the most important letter for for God. Don't ever get too big for God, and don't be ashamed of a relationship with God. We live in a country where some people say that you're not supposed to talk about God in public; that somehow, that's a violation of the separation of Church and State; what a bunch of hogwash! Do they know that Thomas Jefferson had 190 religious volumes in his library? Do they know that the preamble to our Constitution talks about certain inalienable rights that our Creator endowed us with? Have they ever said the Pledge of Allegiance to that flag, which says we are one nation under God? In every courtroom in our land, on the wall, it says, "In God, we trust"; every coin in our pocket, every bill in our wallet says, "In God, we trust."

So tell me something, if it's in our Constitution, it's in our pledge, it's in our courts, and it's in our money, but we're not supposed to talk about it, what is that? That's schizophrenia. Does that not explain some of the things going on in our society today?

We've got to get it across to our young people that it's okay to be nice to people, to care about your fellow man, to develop your God-given talents to their utmost; to have values and principles in their lives. If we do that, I believe we in this country can lead the world to the type of civilization that this world should know. We should not be castigating each other; we should be loving each other. We should follow the example of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We should make sure that in all things we honor him. The way we honor him is by honoring each other.

Thank you, and good luck.

Representative BARRETT: Thanks, Dr. Carson, thank you so much for those words, for that inspirational message. We're grateful to you.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my great privilege and high honor to introduce to you William Jefferson Clinton, the president of the United States.

President CLINTON: Thank you very much.

Congressman Barrett, I want to thank you for making it possible for me to follow Dr.

Carson. That business about worrying about whether the Secret Service would take you away if you talked too long—if that were true, I wouldn't be here today; I'd be long gone.

That biochemical description—I've got a real problem; I can't remember my home phone number anymore.

Senator Akaka, Mr. Speaker, Congressman Gephardt, to all the members of Congress and the governors who are here, and our leaders and visitors from other lands, and ministers and citizens from the United States, I've had a wonderful day today.

I would like not to pour cold water on the day, but just as you go through the day, I would like to ask all of you to remember the heartbreaking loss that our friends in Israel have sustained in the last couple of days, with 73 of their finest young soldiers dying in that horrible accident in the air.

I would like to also say that, like all of you, I was very elevated by this experience, as I always am. I thought Dr. Carson was wonderful. I thought the Scriptures were well-chosen. I appreciate all the people who work on the prayer breakfast so much.

I would like to just say a couple of things very briefly.

In my Inaugural Address and again in my State of the Union, I've quoted Isaiah 58:12, which Reverend Robert Schuller sent to me a few days before I started my second term, to remind us that we should all be repairers of the breach. It's a very moving thing. Basically, the political press here read it in the proper way. They said that Clinton wants the Republicans and Democrats to make nice to each other and do constructive things. But then I got to thinking about who is it that's in the breach. Who has fallen between the cracks? If we repaired the breach, who would we be lifting out of the hole? Very briefly, I'd like to just mention three things, and to ask you not only to pray for these three groups of people but also to do something about it.

I don't know about you, but whenever I hear somebody like Dr. Carson speak, I can clap better than anybody in the audience; then the next day when I get up and try to live by what he said I was supposed to do, it turns out to be harder than it was to clap. So I would like to ask you to think about who is in the breach if we're supposed to be repairers of the breach.

The first group of people that are in the breach are the poor in America. They're different than they used to be. When I was a boy, most poor people were old. In 1995, we learned last year, we had the lowest rate of poverty among older Americans in the history of the country. We have succeeded in taking them out of poverty, virtually, all of them. We should be proud of that, and grateful. Today almost all the poor are young. Very young people without much education. A lot of mothers like Dr. Carson's mother, struggling, doing the best they can to raise their kids.

We just passed this welfare reform bill, which I signed and voted for because I believed it, and we did it because we believed that the welfare system had gone from being a system that helped the poor to help themselves to move off welfare to a system that trapped people because the family unit has changed and there are so many single parents out there having children, and there isn't the stigma on it there used to be. A lot of people now seem to be stuck on that system from generation to generation. So we changed it.

We didn't change it; we tore it down; we threw it away. We said there's no longer a national guarantee that you can always get a check from the government just because you're poor and you've got little babies in

your home. Now, the kids can have health care and we'll give them food, but you don't get an income check every month. You've got to go to work if you're able to.

So the people that are in the breach are the people that we say have to go to work, who want to go to work, who can go to work. You have to help us repair the breach. Two and a quarter million people moved off of welfare rolls in the last four years. A million of them, more or less, were adults who went to work; the others were their children, a million out of 11 million new jobs created. In the next four years, there's more or less 10 million more people left on welfare; about 3½ million adults, maybe 4 (million), most of them able-bodied. All of them are supposed to lose their benefits, if they're able-bodied, after two years unless they go to work. Where are they going to get the jobs? You're going to have to give them; private employers and churches, community nonprofits.

I see the governor of Michigan, the governor of North Dakota here. They can actually take the welfare check and give it to you now as an employment or a training subsidy or to help you deal with transportation or child care or whatever. But you better hire them. If you don't, this whole thing will be a fraud, and we will not have repaired the breach. All that we dreamed of doing, which is to create more Dr. Carsons out of those children of welfare recipients, will go down the drain because we come to places like this and clap for people like him, and then we get up tomorrow morning, and we don't repair the breach and do what we're supposed to do. I need you to help us.

The second people who have fallen between the cracks are people around the world who are in trouble that we could help without troubling ourselves very much. I am proud of what our country has done in Bosnia and the Balkans—you should be too—in the Middle East and Haiti; to help our neighbors in Mexico. The impulses of the American people are generous. I want to thank the speaker for supporting me when only 15 percent of the American people thought we were right when we tried to help our friends in Mexico. Thank goodness they proved us right, Mr. Speaker; otherwise, we might be out on the south 40 somewhere today.

But still our country has this idea that somehow it demeans us to pay our dues to the United Nations or to participate in the World Bank, or there's lots of things more important than that; or just to give Secretary Albright this year the basic tools of diplomacy. This is an interdependent world. We can get a long way with having the finest defense in the world, but we also have to help people become what they can be. So I ask you to think about that.

We're not talking about spending a lot of money here. It's only 1 percent of our budget. But we can't walk away from our obligations to the rest of the world. We can be a model for the rest of the world, but we also know that we have to model the behavior we advocate, which is to give a helping hand when we can.

The third people who are in the breach and in a deep hole and need to be lifted up are the politicians. We need your help. Some members of the press, they're in that breach with us, too. They need your help. This is funny, but I'm serious now. I want you to laugh today and wake up and be serious tomorrow.

This town is ripped with people who are self-righteous, sanctimonious, and hypocritical. All of us are that way sometime. I plead guilty from time to time. We also tend to get—we spend an enormous amount of time here in Washington trying to get even. It doesn't matter who started it.

I remember when I came here one time, I got so mad at our friends in the Congress and

the Republican Party because they were real mean to me over something. I went back to the White House and I asked somebody who'd been there a while in Washington, I said, "Now, why in the world did they do that?" They said, "It's payback time." I said, "What do you mean?" They said, "Well, they think the Democrats in Congress did this to the Republican Presidents." I said, "I didn't even live here then. Why are they paying me back?" They said, "Oh, you don't understand. You just got to pay back." So then pretty soon I was behaving that way. I'd wake up in the morning, my heart was getting a little hard. I thought "Now, who can I get even with?"

You think—this happens to you, doesn't it? Who can I get even with? Sometimes you can't get even with the people that really did it to you, so you just go find somebody else because you got to get even with somebody. Pretty soon everybody's involved in this great act.

You know how cynical the press is about the politicians. They think we're all—whatever they think. What you should know is that the politicians have now become just as cynical about the press, because cynicism breeds cynicism. We are in a world of hurt. We need help. We are in the breach. We are in the hole here.

This country has the most astonishing opportunity we have ever had. We happen to be faced with this time of great change and challenge. We're going into this enormous new world. Instead of going into it hobbled with economic distress or foreign pressures, we are free of any threat to our existence and our economy is booming. It's like somebody said, "Here's this brave new world, and I'm going to let you prepare for it and walk into it in the best shape you've ever been in." Instead of doing that, half of us want to sit down and the other half of us want to get into a fight with each other. We are in the breach. We need you to help us get out of it.

The United States is better than that; we owe more than that to our people, to our future, and to the world. We owe more than that to our heritage, to everybody from George Washington on that made us what we are today. Cynicism and all this negative stuff—it's just sort of a cheap excuse for not doing your best with your life. It's not a very pleasant way to live, frankly—not even any fun.

I try to tell everybody around the White House all the time, I have concluded a few things in my life, and one of them is that you don't ever get even. The harder you try, the more frustrated you're going to be, because nobody ever gets even. And when you do, you're not really happy. You don't feel fulfilled.

So I ask you to pray for us.

I went to church last Sunday where Hillary and I always go, at the Foundry Methodist Church. The pastor gave a sermon on Romans 12:16-21, and a few other verses. But I'm going to quote the relevant chapters: "Do not be wise in your own estimation." It's hard to find anybody here that can fit that. "Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own vengeance. If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Pray for the people in public office, that we can rid ourselves of this toxic atmosphere of cynicism and embrace with joy and gratitude this phenomenal opportunity and responsibility before us.

Do not forget people in the rest of the world who depend upon the United States for more than exhortation. And most of all, remember that in every scripture of every

faith, there are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of admonitions not to forget those among us who are poor. They are no longer entitled to a handout, but they surely deserve—and we are ordered to give them—a hand up.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Representative BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, for those words. And thank you for, again, scheduling the prayer breakfast. We're grateful to you for taking the time to be with us, as I believe all of your predecessors for 45 years have spent time at this National Prayer Breakfast. Thank you so much.

Senator Daniel Akaka from Hawaii has been a dedicated member of the Senate prayer-breakfast group and the House prayer-breakfast group, as well. He's renowned on Capitol Hill as a man of kindness and a man of great faith. He'll also serve, incidentally, as the chairman of next year's prayer breakfast. Please recognize Senator Dan Akaka to lead us in our closing hymn.

Senator DANIEL AKAKA (D-HI): Thank you very much, Bill. May I ask all of us to stand, please; open our hearts, and raise our voices to the Lord.

(Senator Akaka leads in singing of "Amazing Grace.")

Representative BARRETT: Thank you so much, Senator.

I would like to, at this time—to deliver our closing prayer—to recognize a man who has distinguished himself both in public and private life, the governor of the state of North Dakota, the Honorable Edward Shafer.

Governor EDWARD T. SHAFER (R-ND): As we gather here this morning in Washington, DC, I am reminded of greatness. This is a great city, and we are here as great leaders. We are leaders of great governments and nations, leaders in great business and industry. We are here as leaders of our faith.

But we gather here not in greatness, but in humbleness, and to give thanks. To remember that it is only through the grace of our Almighty God that we serve our fellow man.

On this occasion, I hear again the words of Abraham Lincoln. He said "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overpowering conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that about me seemed insufficient for the day."

Mr. President, First Lady Hillary, Congressman Barrett, Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, all distinguished guests, let us open our hearts and minds and bow our heads in prayer.

God Almighty, Lord of all mercy, we your servants from around the world thank you for your goodness and loving kindness. As our lives burst with meaningful events, large and small, help us remember patience and compassion. We cannot live by scoring who wins or who loses, or by getting even or paying back. Let us live as neighbors looking out for one another, as friends caring for each other, and as family loving one and all.

Encourage us to respect, honor and serve each other. Help us remember it is not the words from our mouths but the actions we take that will command your final judgment.

As we depart from this special occasion, we pray that you will give each of us your directions for the decisions that lie before us, that we might govern wisely and lead well those who are in our care. May we have insight and wisdom in our search for justice, mercy and peace.

I pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Representative BARRETT: Thank you, governor. This will draw to a close the 45th Annual National Prayer Breakfast. We again thank you for your presence, and we ask that you go wherever with God's love.

IT IS TIME TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME FROM BOSNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I was not in favor of sending troops to Bosnia and I will admit that. I was fearful of getting bogged down. It is an awful lot easier to get into a situation like that than it is to extricate oneself after getting there. I think it is time to bring our troops home from Bosnia just as soon as we can.

When President Clinton first sent troops to that country, he promised the Congress they would be brought home by December 20, 1996. Today is April 29, 1997, more than 4 months past the deadline. Our troops are still there. The President now says that the troops will be pulled out by June 1998. The big question is why. Why do they need to stay there another 1½ years?

Does anyone remember the original mission? I admit it is kind of hard to remember, because the President never really spelled it out, but it is generally agreed that the mission was to keep the warring factions separate and to maintain peace in the region. These goals have been accomplished, thanks to the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of our Armed Forces.

As I mentioned, the President has now promised that the troops will be pulled out by June 1998. He cannot blame us for being a little skeptical even about that. His record of breaking promises does not inspire a lot of confidence.

The estimated cost of the Bosnia excursion has ballooned from just under \$2 billion to over \$6 billion. And, remember, this is off budget. This is money that gets spent anyway and it is off budget.

I am an original cosponsor of a new bill, H.R. 1172, the U.S. Armed Forces in Bosnia Protection Act of 1997. The bill commits the United States to leave Bosnia by September of this year, September 30, allowing for a 90-day extension beyond that if the President requests it and the Congress approves it. That would mean that the troops would be out by December 31, 1997, 1 year later than the original deadline.

This is eminently doable, at a huge cost savings, and in the best interest of America and in the best interest of the American troops now in Bosnia. At the very least, we must make the President stick to his June 1998 deadline. But by passing this bill, we can get them out 6 months ahead of that and just be a year later than the original promise.

Unless Congress takes action, I think that troops will just stay in Bosnia and stay and stay and stay. I think we must pass H.R. 1172 to end what could become a never-ending mission. It is time to be responsible to the people we sent there. Remember, these are the best combat troops in the world and we