

The original documents are located in Box 28, “4/8/76 - Filmed Message for Christian Bicentennial Celebration” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKE

FILMED MESSAGE FOR:

CHRISTIAN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OUR BICENTENNIAL IS THE TIME FOR OUR NATION

TO CELEBRATE THE PAST, AND BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

THERE IS NO PART OF OUR PAST MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR

SPIRITUAL HERITAGE -- AND THERE IS NO FIRMER FOUNDATION

FOR THE YEARS TO COME. WE HAVE BEEN, AND WE WILL REMAIN,

ONE NATION UNDER GOD.

OUR FOUNDING FATHERS SOUGHT THE FREEDOM TO WORSHIP

GOD AS THEY PLEASED. AND THOUGHTS OF GOD HELPED FORM

THE EARLIEST IDEAS OF AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD.

AS JOHN WINTHROP LED HIS COURAGEOUS BAND OF SETTLERS

TO MASSACHUSETTS' SHORE IN 1630, HE PARAPHRASED THE BOOK

OF MATTHEW.

WINTHROP WROTE: "WE SHALL BE AS A CITY UPON A HILL,
THE EYES OF ALL PEOPLE ARE UPON US; SO THAT IF WE SHALL DEAL
FALSELY WITH OUR GOD . . . WE SHALL OPEN THE MOUTHS
OF ENEMIES TO SPEAK EVIL OF THE WAYS OF GOD."

AS INDIVIDUALS, AND AS AMERICANS, WE MUST MAINTAIN
OUR COMMITMENT TO A POWER ABOVE US ALL.

I COMMEND THE VOICE OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH FOR THEIR VISION,
AND FOR DEMONSTRATING THEIR COMMITMENT TO LIVING
IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S WORD.

AS YOUR PRESIDENT, I PLEDGE MYSELF TO PRESERVING THE
SPIRITUAL HERITAGE EXPRESSED IN OUR NATIONAL MOTTO: "IN GOD
WE TRUST." WE WILL REMAIN A STRONG AND SECURE PEOPLE
AS WE CONTINUE TO PLACE OUR TRUST IN HIM.

WE ARE A PEOPLE OF MANY RACES AND RELIGIONS;

BUT WE ALL SHARE THE COMMITMENT EXPRESSED IN THE THEME VERSE

FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS THE VOICE OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH HAVE CHOSEN

FOR TONIGHT. LET ME CLOSE BY AFFIRMING ONCE AGAIN

MY LIFELONG BELIEF THAT: "BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD

IS THE LORD."

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOD BLESS YOU.

END OF TEXT