

that it is, as John Wesley said, a gift that God in his strange way left to us as his blessing.

May I conclude this message by offering you the warm hospitality of Maryland and its principal city, Baltimore, and by expressing to you the wish that you may find peace, happiness, and spiritual elevation in the days you spend with us in the celebration of the founding of American Methodism.

REMARKS, PRAYER BREAKFAST

BALTIMORE

June 16, 1966

I have watched with a deep sense of satisfaction the growth of the prayer breakfast movement in Maryland. I have attended as many of the breakfasts as a busy schedule would permit, and I can testify personally as to the enjoyment and the benefits that are to be derived from them.

As an enthusiastic supporter of prayer breakfasts, then, I was pleased when Doug Turnbull invited me here this morning to join with you in rendering our thanks to the Almighty for His blessings and in petitioning His mercy in our undertakings. Benjamin Franklin, whose broad genius included a mastery of stagecraft, believed that whoever brought basic Christianity into government would change the course of history. His words were: "Who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity will revolutionize the world." It is to this subject—a return to the fundamental Christian ideals—that I should like to address myself this morning.

The era in which we live is one of great turbulence and great tension, and it is difficult, if not impossible, to live in such conditions without being seriously disturbed by what is happening about us. Many of the things we think, say and do indicate that we may have forgotten the paths our forefathers trod in search of a life of freedom, peace and happiness. The effects upon us of the era in which we live are evident in the things we value, in the thinking we do, in the manner in which we view the world, in the purpose or lack of purpose in our lives, in the kind of gods we serve, in the way we face the peoples of other nations.

We do not lack bread in America. We do not lack shelter, nor cloth-