

REMARKS BY MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
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As we assemble here in prayer, we know that our spiritual forebears, the women of the Bible, stand close beside us. The faith of Mary herself, of loyal Ruth, wise Deborah and courageous Esther, provides us with the timeless example of their lives.

We can certainly profit from their wisdom in meeting the problems we face, problems some as new as tomorrow and some as old as man's aspirations for a better life. We remember that the women of the Bible did not hesitate or stand aside. They accepted their responsibilities.

They knew the importance and power of prayer, and they also knew the importance and power of helping along God's work by our own efforts.

The Old Testament tells us: "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord," and throughout the ages the young have been the part of the Lord's work to which we women have given special attention.

I, myself, have been particularly struck by two things in our country today. There are the many stories in the press of cruelties and abuses committed on children. We women ought to be thinking about what can be done to stop this frightening trend.

Then, too, I have been excited by the Head-Start Program of the Office of Economic Opportunity, which is designed to give children from culturally deprived homes a chance to prepare themselves to take advantage of schooling. The success of this program depends upon the enthusiasm and the volunteer work of women.

Isaiah tells us: "The children whom the Lord hath given me are for signs and for wonders." Our prayers and our energies must go out to the young, so that they may be signs of the best of our civilization and the keystone of the wonders which a thoughtful, compassionate democracy can produce.

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