

What People Are Saying about Leslie Montgomery and *The Faith of Mike Pence...*

Leslie Montgomery has written an intimate and fascinating portrait of our nation's vice president. Through dozens of interviews with those closest to him, Montgomery details the challenges and opportunities Mike and Karen Pence have faced and how their faith has guided them. *The Faith of Mike Pence* is an inspirational, unflinching, and compelling story for anyone who wants to know the truth about who Mike Pence really is as a Christian, husband, father, friend, and politician. For anyone interested in politics, faith, and the Trump-Pence partnership, this book is a must-read.

—Ralph Reed

Founder, Faith & Freedom Coalition

There are some in the nation who call Mike Pence a zealot and a theocrat, but they don't know him like I do. He is a man of integrity who lives by the principles of his faith in government, where many are more comfortable with politicians who use religion to sway votes. From Pence's rich, spiritual heritage as an Irish Roman Catholic, born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, to becoming a born-again Christian and leading our nation as our vice president, Leslie Montgomery hasn't missed a beat. If you've been as curious about our vice president's faith and his life as a husband, father, and leader as the rest of the nation has been, then I insist that this book is a must-read!

—Dr. Robert Jeffress

Pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas; *Fox News* contributor

As someone privileged to know our vice president, it is my opinion that Leslie Montgomery has captured the essence of what has been the centerpiece of the life and times of Mike Pence. It has been said that one is only qualified to lead to the degree that he is willing to serve. This encompasses Mike Pence.

—Andrew Phipps

Radio/TV host, *Phipps Gospel Sing*

Christianity often receives a bad rap from politicians and the media. However, the basic principles of the faith, if practiced by those who lead our nation, could produce a gentler and kinder society. Christian principles demonstrated by the political leaders of our nation could go a long way in unifying a nation that has been blessed by God beyond measure and yet, divided by those who abuse our society with derogatory language and behavior. *The Faith of Mike Pence* demonstrates how such principles can be demonstrated in the life of one willing to set the example regardless of the cost. Leslie Montgomery has written an objective analysis of a life being lived by those principles, who is unwilling to compromise. Her motive seems obvious. Not only does she portray a life, but promotes a faith whose principles, if practiced, could change a nation. I have felt deeply honored to be among the interviewees for the book and even more blessed to have been Mike and Karen Pence's pastor for more than a decade.

—Dr. Charles Lake

Executive director, Growth Ministries

Perhaps no public figure since John Kennedy has been attacked for their faith by the misinformed and politically prejudiced as much as Mike Pence. Leslie Montgomery's book is one of the few profiles to portray Pence's faith story in a fair manner. Unlike other accounts, Montgomery uses the testimonies of many who know him the best, not those with political or personal agendas.

—Bill Smith

Former chief of staff

Finally, a book that gets to the crux of the misrepresented "feud" between Vice President Pence and the LGBT community. Through interviews with key staff members, family, friends, and close associates, Leslie Montgomery has proven that from day one, Mike Pence has been a vice president for all Americans.

—Gregory T. Angelo

Former president, Log Cabin Republicans

I hope that every American who is turned off by bare-knuckle, negative politics will read Leslie Montgomery's wonderful book about Vice President Pence's pure motives, solid values, and personal humility. This book is a "must read" for Christians who feel a call to seek public office or who currently serve in an elective capacity. For them, it is more than a profile of a man who holds the second highest office in the land. They will be encouraged and inspired by this book. It will serve as an invaluable roadmap for how they should maintain and reflect a strong Christian witness in the rough and tumble profession that they have chosen.

—Ed Simcox

Former secretary of state for Indiana

There has never been a vice president like Mike Pence in the history of the United States, and I believe there will never be one like him. He is a man of true conviction, if there ever was one. Most men check their faith at the door, but not Mike. Whether he is at home, at a peace summit halfway across the world, or the Oval Office, his faith informs everything he does. America is blessed to have him as our vice president—and we are blessed to get a glimpse of this side of his extraordinary life through Leslie Montgomery's *The Faith of Mike Pence*.

—Jack Graham

Pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church
Founder, PowerPoint Ministries

Leslie Montgomery has produced the book that best captures the real Mike Pence. By doing her homework and numerous personal interviews, she has captured the fundamental decency and genuine Christian commitment of Mike Pence.

—Dan Murphy

Friend and fraternity brother

Vice President Mike Pence is a man worth writing about, reading about, and learning from. Leslie Montgomery has managed to pull back the curtain on the faith of the Pence family with inspirational true stories that will fortify and embolden every reader to stand strong in his or her faith with courage and joy. If you are a father, read *The Faith of Mike Pence* and be encouraged. If you are a husband, open the pages and see how to be a godly husband who loves his wife like Jesus loves us. And if you feel called to be involved in politics, this book will prepare you in a unique way to go forward with a steady gait.

—Dr. Jay Strack

President, Student Leadership University

When Mike Pence walks into a room or steps onto a stage, you immediately sense that he is a man who walks with the Lord. You can see it through the compassion in his eyes and the confidence in his step. He knows who he is and he knows who guides him. There are few men I admire more than our current vice president. I would do anything Mike asked of me and I know he would do anything within his power for me. He is a man who is passionate about his family, his friends, his sacred charge as a public official, and his mission as a servant of God. Leslie Montgomery has intricately captured that passion and reveals the heart of our nation's vice president in such a manner that it leaves you encouraged, inspired, and challenged in your own journey of faith. You simply must read this book!

—Doug Deason

President, Deason Capital Services, LLC

Advisor for prison reform

The Faith of Mike Pence provides deep insight into the formative role Mike Pence's faith has played, not just in his journey to the vice presidency, but in how he lives his life on a daily basis. During the years that I worked for him, Mike was never ashamed of the gospel and that comes through clearly in Leslie's well-researched and clearly-written book. I highly recommend *The Faith of Mike Pence* to anyone who wants to understand the central role that Vice President Pence's personal relationship with Christ has played from the time he was a young man and how it impacts his decisions today.

—Stephen C. Piepgrass

Communications director, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, 2001–2002

I've known Mike Pence since he was relatively unknown in the community and I can say with certainty that he's the same man today as he was then: a man of faith, integrity, and fortitude. Reading *The Faith of Mike Pence* gave me tremendous insight into both Mike and Karen through the stories others shared, including those by the Pence family. If you're someone who is curious about how this simple couple from the Midwest developed their faith, values, and the leadership skills to guide our nation, this book is a tremendous read.

—Howard Hubler

Indiana businessman

Reading *The Faith of Mike Pence* is more of an experience rather than a recounting of events and information. Through her creative ability to organize countless first-hand interviews into a seamless narrative, Leslie Montgomery has chronicled decades of Mike Pence's life to provide insight into how his faith and personal relationship with Jesus Christ has molded and shaped his heart and character to become a man who loves and serves God with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength. At times, the reader almost feels present in-the-moment as Mike's Spirit-filled faith and life is revealed through stories illustrating Mike's integrity, priorities, difficult choices, mistakes, patience, kindness, humility, generosity, spiritual growth, disciplines, and prayer life. Through life events, Leslie allows us to see Mike and Karen model a godly marriage characterized by an unbreakable bond of love, commitment, and partnership. You will be encouraged, challenged, enriched and blessed by this inspired classic.

—Jim Dodson

Pastor; former accountability group member

The purpose of *The Faith of Mike Pence* is not to persuade the reader to agree with Pence's positions, political or religious. Rather it is to document one man's spiritual journey—from his mother's womb to the present day. To this end, it succeeds splendidly. Pence's harshest critics will understand the man better after reading the book as will his most ardent fan and the many others in between.

—Cecil E. Bohanon

Professor of Economics, Ball State University

Since President Trump picked Mike Pence as his running mate, the media has caricatured Pence so badly, I hardly recognize him. As one who has known the vice president since 1994, I can confidently say that Leslie Montgomery has accurately depicted the real Mike Pence. If you want to know the heart of the man who is a heartbeat away from the presidency, you need to read Montgomery's account of *The Faith of Mike Pence*.

—Gary Varvel

Friend and former cartoonist for *The Indianapolis Star*

The Faith of Mike Pence is an authentic portrayal of the man I had the privilege of getting to know so well and is a must-read.

—Ryan Reger

Former field representative/scheduler for Mike Pence

Leslie Montgomery has done the nation a great service by introducing Americans to the real Mike Pence and his life's partner, Karen. *The Faith of Mike Pence* lets the reader see the true man of faith behind the headlines—the dedicated Christian, husband, father, and patriot—those of us who have had the privilege of working with him over the years have always known him to be. Mike Pence is indeed a man of absolute integrity who not only talks the talk, but walks the walk.

—Dr. Richard Land

President, Southern Evangelical Seminary

Leslie Montgomery captures the essence of the Mike Pence I have known for more than thirty years. His faith, his marriage, and his caring for allies and opponents alike are all documented in compelling prose.

—Mike Murphy

Senior vice president, Hirons, Indianapolis

Over the years, it has been inspirational to watch Mike build a morally coherent life in a political environment full of corruptible temptations. Leslie's work provides affirmation that he is on the right track.

—Ken Blackwell

American politician, author, and conservative activist
Senior Fellow for Family Empowerment, The Family Research Council

Mike Pence wields enormous influence—perhaps more than any previous vice president. Montgomery has been able to peer into the world view of the man who is a heartbeat away from becoming president and use that vantage to draw a lucid and insightful portrait of the man, his faith, and his vision for America. A must-read for anyone interested in 21st century American politics.

—*David M. McIntosh*
President, Club for Growth

I have great respect for my friend Vice President Mike Pence and the genuine values he demonstrates wherever he goes, whether speaking at a governmental briefing or surveying a hard-hit community after a natural disaster. He made a statement that touched my heart and shows his strength and conviction: “I am first a Christian, second a conservative, and third a Republican.” *The Faith of Mike Pence* clearly shows how our vice president’s deep devotion to God has permeated his life and motivated his dedication to public service. This book reveals the heart of Mike Pence.

—*Apostle Guillermo Maldonado*
King Jesus Ministry International, Miami, FL

THE
FAITH
OF
MIKE
PENCE

LESLIE MONTGOMERY



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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THE FAITH OF MIKE PENCE

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DEDICATION

To my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

PREFACE

There is a sea of negative books on the market about Mike Pence. Due to the positive nature of this one and the timing of its release, some will say that the vice president or those associated with him asked me to write it or influenced me in some other way. I want to set the record straight from the onset.

In 2006, I wrote and released *The Faith of Condoleezza Rice*, knowing it might be years before I published another book. My husband and I were undergoing fertility treatments and vowed that if I got pregnant, I'd take a few years off of working outside the home to raise my children until they were in school full-time. Well, I did get pregnant and we had two children in the span of two-and-a-half years.

In early summer 2017, with two kids getting ready to start school again, I prayed and asked God to send me a new book contract; it was time to get back into the thick of things. Two weeks later, I dreamt that I was to write *The Faith of Mike Pence*. The truth is, neither he nor his faith were even on my radar. I got out of bed and began doing a little research. I wrote a book proposal for different publishers and began to accumulate a list of people I hoped to interview.

Within the next couple of days, I sent my proposal to the publishers of my book on Condoleezza's faith. They got back to me right away to say they weren't interested.

The worst part of an author's life is courting publishers. It literally drains the life out of you. So I prayed to God, "If writing this book is really Your will, please send the right publisher to me."

The *next day*, I received an e-mail from Christine Whitaker, the author liaison at Whitaker House. I had sent her a fiction book proposal a year earlier and she was just getting back to me. She wasn't interested in *that* proposal, but she did invite me to send any non-fiction proposals I had. I quickly sent her my proposal for *The Faith of Mike Pence*. Within days, Christine let me know Whitaker House was interested. In the realm of book publishing, getting a contract within days is unheard of—it simply never happens.

I put a request in to the White House to interview the vice president and his wife. I asked for their permission to interview their families and closest friends. While I waited for an answer, I prayed and asked God to give me favor by opening the doors. In the meantime, I just kept doing research, interviewing people, and writing the book in faith.

As I proceeded, I had no idea what was going on behind the scenes. Without informing me, my requests for interviews and cooperation were denied. Unaware of this denial, I kept praying in faith and asked others to join me. I had faith that if God had really asked me to write this book, He'd blow open the necessary doors to get it done.

One afternoon as I was in my car, I received an unexpected call from a man who introduced himself as Jay C. Steger, a fellow believer and the vice president's best friend. He hadn't even been on my radar, let alone on my list of people to interview. Jay told me that although my request for the vice president's approval and assistance in this book was initially denied, he had since had a change of heart. Jay would connect me to the "inner-circle" of the vice president's friends to interview—and possibly family members as well.

As I interviewed different people, God gave me favor and they began referring to me other people to interview, opened doors to those who were often reluctant to speak, and encouraged the vice president and his people to participate in this project to the fullest extent possible.

While many participated, there was some resistance from others. The vice president, his family, and those closest to him had been burnt

horribly by the media in the past, with their comments taken out of context, twisted, or used as weapons. I was facing an uphill battle. Yet I believe in the power of prayer and kept on storming the gates of heaven, asking for God to open the doors and give me favor.

Ultimately, I ended up with more than fifty interviews with many other people, some of whom wished to remain anonymous. While everyone supported this book and had great things to say about the vice president, not everyone shared his religious convictions or political views. This in itself revealed a lot about who he is as a man and Christian, as well as his ability to connect with people.

One afternoon, I had a unique interview with Rex Elsass, founder and CEO of the Strategy Group Company. Rex is a dear friend of the vice president's and his company has produced all of Mike Pence's campaign ads since he won his first congressional campaign. Rex and I connected spiritually and God showed him my heart for this project. It was clear to him that I wasn't writing a "tell-all" or out to hurt the vice president, but to share the truth about who he is as a man, husband, father, politician, and Christian. What I can only believe is a miracle from the hand of God, Rex became an avid supporter and, on several occasions, personally advocated on my behalf directly to the vice president to participate with his wife and family. While awaiting the vice president's response, Rex and his assistant, R. J. Richmond, linked arms with me in prayer and faith that God would indeed open the necessary doors to the West Wing at the White House. Miraculously, He did.

I'm not under the illusion that everyone who reads this book will be in agreement with the vice president's political views. I must point out, however, that this is not a book about politics, but about Mike Pence's faith and how it directly affects the rest of his life. As he likes to say, "I'm a Christian, conservative, and Republican—in that order."

Many people who do not support Mike's spiritual views will find ways to mock him or twist comments and stories about him. It saddens me that we live in a country where we strongly advocate for religious freedom, yet take offense and become angry with those who don't

share our views. Regardless of one's religious beliefs, if we are mature, reasonable people, we should respect anyone who lives by their convictions as Mike Pence does.

My overall goal with this book is not to set the vice president up as a spiritual hero, but to show the heart of the real man—as a Christian, husband, father, and politician. In doing so, I tried to allow his own words and those of his family, friends, and colleagues tell his story while I served as a conduit to weave it together. My prayer is that it inspires, encourages, and challenges you.

To God be the glory.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First and foremost, I thank my mother, Dianne Andrews, for being my best friend, confidant, rock, and prayer warrior. Your unwavering support and encouragement throughout this project have been invaluable. Thank you for celebrating with me all the miracles that took place to make this happen. I'm so thankful God chose you to be my mom.

A big shout-out to my kids, Paul, Isabella and Elijah, who sacrificed countless hours while their mom did interviews, research, and writing for this book. I am so amazed by your love. You take my breath away. Punka-doodle-popper, baby!

A special thank-you to my husband, Dallas, for listening to me for hours on end as I retold the inspiring and encouraging stories about Mike Pence that were shared with me in interviews. It was my pleasure to keep you awake all night talking when we traveled cross-country by car on vacation over the summer of 2018. Your gift of wisdom is something I admire the most about you. Your spiritual insight regarding Catholicism and Christianity as a whole was most beneficial. You're a wonderful leader and example to our kids. I love you for that.

This book is possible in large part due to the support, input, advocacy, and prayers of Jay C. Steger. I will always cherish the hours upon hours that we spoke, as well as the joy we share in our faith. You've been a blessing by helping me attain crucial interviews and sharing details and stories with me. Saying "thank you" seems insufficient to show my gratitude. Together, we have accomplished our goal with this

book. I pray you're proud of all you've done to see it through and the final result.

A heart-felt thank-you to Dr. James Dobson for your generous and kind gift and the comments you shared with me regarding your relationship with Mike Pence. I respect and honor you for all you do on behalf of our Lord. It's been a privilege to write for Focus on the Family for over twenty years. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the tremendous work you've done on behalf of families around the world.

To Rex Elsass, what can I say besides, "You're amazing!" You came from out of nowhere and went far and above the call of duty to help me get the vital interviews and information I needed to complete this project. I am eternally grateful to you for being my advocate, friend, and brother in Christ. I will never forget what you've done for me and pray God will bless you a hundredfold for your effort. I owe you big time! And a *big* thank you to R. J. Richmond of the Strategy Group Company as well. He was my fellow prayer warrior every step of the way. You guys are awesome!

A special thank-you to Bill Smith for committing to reading the manuscript for political accuracy and accountability purposes and joining me in prayer for its completion and success. Your assistance is so appreciated. You're a blessing to me.

Christine Whitaker jumped on this project so fast, my head spun. She saw the vision and she ran with it, doing everything in her power to make this book a success. I've never worked with a publisher who was so invested in a project for the sole purpose of sharing the heart of God. She's linked arms with me from day one in prayer and as a result, we've seen miracle after miracle occur. Thank you for listening to the Spirit to publish this book.

There are not enough words in the English dictionary to express my gratitude for my personal team of prayer warriors who daily storm heaven's gates on my behalf. Your intercession on behalf of my life and this book and all that has gone into it is priceless. I'm proud to call you my brothers and sisters in Christ, Susan Van Someren, Shirley Rosenvall, Cathi and Dana Danzer, and Mary Lou Phillips.

Pastor Jackson Cramer, you are an extraordinary man of God and I'm so blessed to call you my pastor. You have advocated and interceded for me from the moment I first stepped through the doors of Cole Community Church and I am overwhelmed by the love of Christ that you and the church have freely given. If every church in America loved their congregants as well as our church does, the body of Christ would radiate into the world and pierce the darkness in a way that has yet to be seen since the moment Jesus rose from the dead.

Special thanks to Jeanne Cramer for being my prayer and accountability partner. Your love and support is invaluable. For me, there was a kindred spirit between us from the moment we met. I praise God for you.

Dr. Kent DelHousaye with the DelHousaye Group has been instrumental as my life coach and communications strategist. You've changed my life with your encouragement, wisdom, and instruction from the first time we began working together. You've been a true gift from God.

I'd like to thank the editing team at Whitaker House. You've done extraordinary work and I appreciate your efforts and the expertise that only good editors have to make a manuscript presentable to the public.

My marketing and public relations team is simply the best. Thank you to Jim Armstrong, Karen Campbell, and Matt Palumbo for reaching the world and getting the word out regarding the truth of who Mike Pence is as a man of God.

To my friend and sister in Christ, Sarah Olson. You always have a listening ear, wise advice, a biblical perspective, and a loving and caring attitude. I love that we share joy in prayer, in raising our children unto Christ, and in servanthood. I also enjoy the fact that we can find humor in just about anything. Laughter doeth good like medicine (Proverbs 17:22). I'm so thankful the Lord brought you into my life "for such a time as this." You're simply the best.

Additional thanks go to many others who helped me in some manner or allowed me to interview them for this book, including

those who wished to remain anonymous (you know who you are), as well as those who made significant contributions including, but not limited to, Franklin Graham, Richard Land, Ken Blackwell, Ralph Reed, Stephen Piepgrass, Doug Deason, Van Smith, Dr. Ronnie Floyd, Craig Fehrman, Scott Uecker, Dr. Jay Strack, Cecil Bohanon, Mark and Patricia Bailey, Tony Suarez, Congressman John Carter, Dr. Jack Graham, Andrew Phipps, Ryan Reger, Reverend Johnnie Moore, Mike Murphy, Gary Varvel, Garry Smith, David McIntosh, Pastor Harry Jackson, Pastor Jim Dodson, Howard Hubler, Lani Czarniecki, Ed Simcox, Pastor Charles Lake, Ed Feigenbaum, Matt Brooks, Andrew Murray, Dan Murphy, Mike Stevens, Dr. Sue Ellsperman, and Jennifer L. Ping.

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

(Matthew 25:23 KJV)

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FOREWORD

I have known Mike Pence for almost 25 years. We share the same passion and values for faith, family, conservative causes, and servanthood for our nation. We have a lot in common. While I served the body of Christ as a pastor, Mike Pence was considering the priesthood. When I became a servant for our country as Lt. Governor, then as Governor of Arkansas, Mike Pence was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in Indiana. We both have three children and wives who have stood the test of time as faithful companions and prayer warriors. Most importantly, when we've both faced what seemed at the time as insurmountable circumstances in our lives, we've both turned to God for His support, encouragement, and strength, and matured in our faith as a result.

Mike Pence is not a politician who wears his faith on his sleeve. He wears it in his heart and soul. He is a man who seeks and desires to do God's will in every area of his life. While many politicians claim faith as a badge to sway votes or to impress a group of pastors or evangelicals, Mike Pence stands out as the real deal, a man who says what he means and means what he says. His heart for God is evident in his pro-life stance, in his advocacy for Israel, and other policies he boldly fights for. You never have to question where he stands on an issue because it's always from a biblical worldview. I am proud to call him our nation's vice president, a friend, and my brother in Christ.

Within these pages, Leslie Montgomery has painted an exquisite picture of the real Mike Pence that is seldom if ever reported upon

by media. In interviews with his family, friends, colleagues, and even those who are on the other side of the aisle, Montgomery has shown us his proud Roman Catholic roots, the young dreamer he grew up to be in a loving home, the struggling young man seeking to find himself in college, the fallible man seeking redemption through faith, the ambitious side of politics, and the spiritual journey that ultimately led him to be our vice president. There is no other book out there that captures the truth behind all of these moments in time in the life of Vice President Mike Pence.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mike Huckabee", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

—Mike Huckabee

INTRODUCTION

Have you struggled with your faith?

Have you wondered about your purpose in life?

Has your life been forever changed because someone took the time to care?

Leslie Montgomery's new book, *The Faith of Mike Pence*, explores how this grandson of Irish immigrants found his inner spiritual light, was held up by loving brothers and sisters in Christ, and rose to become vice president of the United States.

Many are faith-filled, but Leslie's book celebrates the joy of becoming Christ-centered, by sharing Mike Pence's deeply personal walk of faith. Here, we read about a faith that wasn't full, a faith that was abandoned—and then, out of the darkness, a faith that was joyfully reborn in Jesus Christ.

You'll also meet the real Karen Pence, who shares her gift of faith with the husband and father she loves. Karen Pence is not only a gift to Mike Pence, but a gift to our nation, because she has a devoted faith and calming spirit that calls us to stop, listen, and learn.

Mike Pence is a prayerful leader who trusts in the Lord, gives thanks for his family, and celebrates our God-given liberty every day. That's the Mike Pence we see in *The Faith of Mike Pence*.

I've known Mike Pence for nearly twenty years and have never seen a leader so devoted to God and country. He has a servant's heart and

a compassionate soul that lifts people up. He reminds me of America's founders and he also shares Ronald Reagan's optimistic spirit and love of country.

This book is a must-read for anyone who wants to know the real story about Mike Pence. Leslie's in-depth study, full of engaging, personal stories, introduces us to a prayerful and humble-hearted leader who is restoring hope to the America we love.

—*Rex Elsass*
CEO, The Strategy Group Company

1

THE BLESSING

After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: "I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do."

—Acts 13:22

Mike Pence stood in the sanctuary of the historic, 200-year-old St. John's Episcopal Church, surrounded by stained-glass windows and a small group of friends and family for an intimate, private prayer service.

Dr. James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family and *Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk*, stood next to Mike, holding a copy of a prayer and blessing he'd written specifically for the vice president-elect. It was 8:30 a.m. With the inauguration only hours away, Dobson wanted to speak a personal blessing over Mike before he embarked on his new role. In his humble, Midwestern manner, Mike clasped his hands before him and bowed his head as Dobson began to speak:

To commemorate this historic day, I would like to take us back to a passage in the Holy Scriptures, found in 2 Chronicles, chapter 1, verses 1–12, when Solomon, son of David, had been chosen as king over the house of Israel. We read, *that night God appeared to Solomon and said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give to you."*

Solomon answered God, "You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. Now, LORD God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. Give me wisdom and knowledge that I might lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

God answered Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire, and you have not asked for wealth, riches, or honor, nor the death of your enemies, and you have not asked for long life, but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge will be given to you."

As we know, Solomon became one of the wisest men who ever lived.

The Scriptures teach us that wisdom is being able to perceive things from God's point of view. No greater blessing can be given to a leader than the ability to grasp eternal truths and put them to use. After all, these biblical concepts come from the Creator Himself.

Mike Pence has demonstrated that his values are in the right place. I have known him for twenty-five years and watched as he was given increasing responsibility for government. Humility and integrity have been his way of life. When he introduced himself to the American people last year, he wasn't embarrassed to say simply, "I am a Christian." Let me close this historic moment with a prayer:

Heavenly Father, I ask You to lay Your hands on Mike Pence and the new president of the United States, Donald J. Trump, as they assume the burdens of national leadership. May they be keenly aware of Your presence when the challenges are too heavy to bear. May they lead the nation with righteousness. Protect them from those who would try to cause them harm, and preserve this great country from international intrigue. May You grant them wisdom and knowledge in the measure

of Solomon in days of old. When their terms of office are complete and life moves on, may they hear You say those beautiful words, “Well done, thou good and faithful servants.” In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.¹

ENDNOTES

1. From James C. Dobson’s personal correspondence with author, August 17, 2018.