

*For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.*

*Psalm 36:9*

# the LifeWord

with Michael Green



February 13, 2009

Dear Friend:

## LUV TO THE GUV

A few days ago, I, along with several other Louisiana pastors, sat at the Dining Room table in the Governor's Mansion and listened to Bobby Jindal *"preach"* from his heart. Most of the guys agreed, if this politics thing doesn't work out, he can always hit the preaching circuit.

Mr. Jindal's invitation and agenda was simple, he wanted the fellowship.

Citing his years in the Congress and of working in the White House, he stated that there seemed to be a bubble around Washington that locks out common sense and feeds an *"out of touch"* mindset; he was not about to let that spirit overtake him.



Over the years, he had been in most of our churches and had clearly appreciated the prayers and the Message we are called to preach. He challenged us in our roles as leaders and encouragers. He laughingly complained about one politically correct service where the preacher was fishing for a post service complement. Mr. Jindal responded by citing the scripture's annoyance with things that are lukewarm. No such problem with our Governor.

As he started to speak, I realized I was watching a complex package of faith, optimism, confidence, responsibility and solemnity. He had always been the smartest guy in the room but now, he was in a new stratosphere. We have had the honor of knowing him over the years but after one year as Governor, the growth in depth, dignity and wisdom was stunning. Unabashedly, he had been strengthened by prayer and the Word.

Without a hint of arrogance, our humble leader spoke of his concern for our culture and the coming increase of hostilities towards people like us. He was concerned about the attacks on our family structure. He also had words of disappointment regarding one of America's historic universities, founded on Christian principles that was now sandblasting the scriptures off of the buildings that had been built over 100 years before by benevolent people of faith.

Sounding like he had read my email from last week, he talked about our *"Salt and Light"* responsibility right now, more than ever.

He spoke of his concern regarding some of the political chicanery that will tie a monster monetary millstone around the necks of our children and grandchildren for all of their lives and beyond. Just the day before we had all been told that the government is the only answer for our problems. Instead, he spoke of faith and discussed the power of speaking words that will foster hope in our State and our Nation.

Not denying the obvious gravity of our problems, he spoke of the history of the American spirit (intertwined with our Judeo-Christian founding) that has outperformed government every time. Words like confidence and responsibility have been lost in today's government, on both sides of the aisle.

Somewhere between the salad and the fish dish, he spoke of a personal experience that had touched a deeper thought. He related about going back to commemorate with his High School graduating class (guess who won the most successful student award?) and jokingly said, *"I couldn't believe how they had aged"*.

Then he turned serious as he realized how many of the attendees were giving verbatim accounts of a conversation, a ballgame or experience from a quarter of a century ago. These weren't just simplistic remembrances, because as he looked on, he realized, for ones who were telling these romantic accounts, this had clearly been the happiest time of their lives. Tragically, many had not moved on and grown in life and experience. They were still back there.

There is no problem with a warm memory but a big dysfunctional disconnect occurs when our lives, identities and self worth are chained to a dead time so far back in the past. So much is to be missed and lost.

During these continuing difficult times, he spoke of our need to look forward, to be positive and proactive in the work of our state and our churches. The thrust was clear; life is so rich, so full of possibility. Let's not miss the challenging but exciting days that await us.

Bobby Jindal inhabits an office that, for over 100 years, has been a pathetic source of derision, ineptness and corruption but it is a new day, a new vision and a new call. He told us that more rough days are ahead but he is definitely tied into a *"Right Now"* mindset and mission. That was his message to all of us.

In a brief goodbye whisper, I told him I loved him and was praying for him; he returned the sentiment. Then I said, *"You have made it a lot easier for us to say to the rest of the country, "We are from Louisiana", thank you"*.

How refreshing.

*Michael*

PS: This Sunday, in both services, LINDA GREEN ministers the Word!

*The*  
LifeGate