

Greetings at the UB Service of Thanksgiving

6th November 2016

By the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie

Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Good afternoon Church,

Protocol having been established, I will start by saying that I am pleased that we are starting this week of celebrations the right way, by giving thanks to God.

Throughout the journey that brought us to Charter Week, and even before, I have been conscious of His hand at work. For me, this week is the realisation of a dream I have long had – the dream of a University of The Bahamas. A national university has been a dream for many, and today, as the Choir sings magnificent hymns and we prepare to hear God's message through Dean Adderley, I want us all to reflect on how significant it is for the Bahamian people that we have a national university.

This institution will service us in ways that we can only imagine. A university does so much more than educate a population. It

aids in research, in defining and creating public policy. A university is a space where imagination is encouraged and dreamers, like me, become free to make their dreams come true. At the university, we will nurture talent and inspire new leaders.

I believe that this institution will also unite our country. Truly, the entire archipelago is the campus of the University of The Bahamas. Every citizen, from North to South will have the opportunity to study closer to home. That will be a blessing to those people and a boon for the economies on those islands. Already the existing campuses are growing to accommodate more students – national, regional and international.

It is my sincere hope that we harness this blessing and use it for the maximum benefit of all. At the University of The Bahamas, the doors will be open. We will be inclusive and we will encourage diversity.

I want to ask everyone here today, and all those taking part in this week's activities, to breathe a prayer of success over everything and to commit to being, in any way, great or small, a contributor to the success of the University of The Bahamas.

Thank you.