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PRESIDENT BUSH TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE 2008 NATIONAL HISPANIC PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Event Brings Together Over 750 Hispanic Clergy
to Address Issues Facing the Hispanic Community

June 25, 2008, Washington, D.C. –Esperanza, the largest Hispanic Evangelical network in the United States, committed to strengthening the Latino community, announced that President George W. Bush will be the keynote speaker at the 2008 National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast this Thursday, June 26 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. This will be the sixth time President Bush participates at the event. Other special guests include the First Lady of the Republic of Panama, Mrs. Vivian Fernández de Torrijos, and Israel's Tourism Commissioner, Mr. Rami Levi.

The program will also feature musical performances from major Hispanic Gospel artists, such as Latin Grammy Award winner, Marcos Witt; ARPA Award winner, Julissa; Latin Grammy nominee, Roberto Orellana; Jessica; Ricardo Rodríguez; and Latin Grammy Award winner, Coalo Zamorano.

“It is a blessing and an honor to host President Bush at the Prayer Breakfast,” said Rev. Luis Cortés, Jr., President of Esperanza. “This year, more than ever, we have come together in a special way to pray, celebrate, and advocate for Hispanics everywhere.”

The 2008 National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference has gathered over 750 Hispanic clergy members of different denominations and leaders of community based organizations, representing a broad spectrum of the national Latino community. For the first time this year, the conference provided a new advocacy forum: Town Hall Meetings. Through these informative briefings, the Hispanic spiritual and community leaders had the opportunity to meet with the presidential candidates' campaign managers and hear the candidates' platforms on Hispanic issues. During the three-day conference, participants also attended advocacy trainings, immigration workshops, and prayer events.

The Reverend Luis Cortés, Jr. is president of Esperanza, the largest Hispanic faith-based Evangelical network in the United States. With a national network of more than 12,000 churches, ministries, and community organizations, Esperanza is one of the leading voices for Hispanics in America. For more information, go to www.esperanza.us.

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