

March 20, 2002

Dear Friends:

It is with great regret that I am unable to join you this evening. Unfortunately, the weather did not allow for safe travel. I do want to thank you for the invitation to join you tonight for your revival. The word revival, in some definitions, refers to “a restoration of life, an awakening.” I believe Mississippi is going through a revival – in its commitment to making the most of the promise of *all* its people, in all areas of the state.

That revival begins with how we care for one another. It begins with how we focus our efforts on health care, on education, on jobs that put food on the table and roofs over our heads.

I’ve always believed that God makes our dreams a size too big so we can grow into them. Mississippi is growing; we’re growing fast and we’re growing together. I believe we are far beyond the Mississippi that most people think of; we are a Mississippi that shares a common belief and a common commitment to the worth of all people.

I pray every day for the strength and the wisdom to do this job, a job that I love. I would ask for your prayers as well – not just for myself, but for all in public service – that we might do work that serves our people and serves God.

That work includes doing everything we can to come together not just as Mississippians but as creations of God – made in His image, blessed by His grace, and saved by His son. I try to do this work every day, and I challenge you to do the same. Let’s live out the words we speak.

I know it happened a few years ago when Mt. Pleasant Church burned. People from all walks of life, and from far outside this community, came together to rebuild this house of God. If that can happen, imagine what else can be done.

As we move further into the 21st century, let’s continue the commitment and the dream of so many who have come before us. Let’s live out the word of God, the word that teaches us a simple lesson – to simply love our neighbors as ourselves.

We can do this. It’s happening right now. It’s helping make a better, stronger, healthier Mississippi – and I’m thankful for it.

God bless you, God bless the work of this revival, and God bless our great state.

Very truly yours,

Ronnie Musgrove