

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, South McComb Baptist Church has a double background, a very unusual historical phenomenon that began as a combining of two churches—in 1903, a unanimous resolution was passed to combine Whitestown Baptist Church and South McComb Baptist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, South McComb Baptist Church had only four pastors for the first fifty years—the first pastor, Rev. J.P. Hemby, served for one year and Rev. J.H. Lane served from 1904 to 1922; and

**WHEREAS**, a Sunday School was started immediately following the organization of the church, as early as 1905, a Woman's Missionary Society was active; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 4, 1921, the church extended a call to Rev. R.R. Jones and voted to appoint a building committee for a Pastor's home—a Brotherhood was organized in 1946; and

**WHEREAS**, James A. Bryant became pastor on January 18, 1948—the educational annex was built in 1949 and the basement of the church was completely remodeled in 1951—Rev. C.F. Barnes became pastor in October of 1953; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Herman P. Hayes accepted pastorate of South McComb in July 1956, Brother and Mrs. Hayes served South McComb until July 1959 when they left for South Vietnam under appointment of the Foreign Mission Board; and

**WHEREAS**, in December 1959, Rev. W.R. Gifford took leadership of the church and led them to build an educational building which served 8 elementary departments—the dedication services were held in May 1963; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. David A. Millican began his service on July 15, 1963 and started the Kindergarten Ministry of South McComb Baptist Church after the completion of the new auditorium in 1965—at one time, the largest Kindergarten in Southwest Mississippi—the Kindergarten has been a strong ministry of South McComb Baptist Church for 38 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Michael Johnson was called as pastor in August 1996 and Rev. Ted C. Bowlin became pastor on October 11, 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, looking back over the last 100 years of ministry, the guidance of the Lord is evident—as the church renews their commitment to sharing God's word and the love of Christ through service and outreach in the community, new and great things are sure to abound:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim March 30, 2003, in honor of

**SOUTH MCCOMB BAPTIST CHURCH**

in the State of Mississippi.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, March 27, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR