

*Remarks to the  
State Baptist Convention  
July 16, 2001*

Thank you for the invitation to join you here tonight. Your warmth and your welcome are appreciated, and I am proud to be here with you.

On behalf of the people of Mississippi, I bring greetings to you and welcome you. I know the time you spend together during this convention will be blessed and the work you do will be done to the benefit of others and the glory of God.

I am pleased to know that I am among friends here, and we share the same hopes and dreams for the people, especially the children, of Mississippi.

There is a verse from Phillipians that helps me in this work, and I'm sure you are familiar with it: "I can do all things through him who sustains me."

Let us always keep this verse in the forefront of our thinking as we do our work.

You will be in my thoughts and prayers as you hold your convention. I know the work you do here – and the work you will continue to do after you return home – will reflect the commitment, the values and the teachings of the church.

God bless you all.