

*Remarks for the
National Day of Prayer Rally
May 1, 2003*

Good afternoon. I am pleased to be here to help celebrate this National Day of Prayer and the role of prayer in our collective and individual lives.

At this rally last year, I mentioned my belief that God wants us to burden him with the things that burden us – and prayer is the way we do that.

It's also the most intimate means of conversing with God – a time when we share our hopes, our fears, our dreams and our innermost feelings.

It's an act of pure openness with God, and we know he is always there with ears to listen and arms to support us.

It's been said that prayer is the exhaling of the spirit of man and the inhaling of the spirit of God – and I believe we all know how important it is to stop and take a deep breath sometimes.

Prayer is an important part of our lives, in so many ways. I pray every day – for the courage and strength to do my job, for those who share in that work, for the blessings God has bestowed in my life, and for the people of this state.

I'm proud to again proclaim a Day of Prayer in Mississippi, and encourage Mississippians to realize the power of prayer and the tremendous difference it can make in life.

(read proclamation)

May God bless us all, and bless our state and our nation.