

*Remarks for the  
Dedication of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
April 27, 2003*

- Recognize Archbishop Earl Paulk  
(Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Atlanta)
  - Welcome to Mississippi
  - Thanks for being here to help celebrate  
this great day
  
- Scripture tells us, “where there is no vision,  
the people perish”
  - You had a vision for this beautiful  
church
  - Together, we have a vision for our  
beautiful state

- You all worked together to make this day a reality
  - You knew what this congregation needed
  - You made it happen
  - You did it through a shared vision, shared commitment
  
- We need to use that energy to build on the shared vision, shared commitment for Mississippi
  - Vision and commitment to building good schools, good jobs and good communities

- We are making great progress in this work
  - Mississippi's image is changing
  - Setting a new standard for other states to follow
  - Sending a new message to the world about what we can do here
  
- Education is our first priority / has been for past three years since I've been in office
  - Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
  - Teacher pay
  - Computers in the Classroom
  
- When it comes to education, we mean business
  - Business means jobs

- Another image of Mississippi that's changing
  - No longer a state that depends solely on agriculture / low wage jobs
  - We are aggressive about creating quality, high-paying jobs for our people
  
- We're looking to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
  - Good schools / good jobs / good communities

- The image of the Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
  - It's an image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
  - It's an image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk
  - It's an image of global companies looking for a place to do business in the state
  
- It's an image of a state with a vision

- This church was built with the shared strength of this community
  - Imagine what we can do together through the shared strength of all Mississippians