

- General Welcome (include elected officials, your mother, etc...)
- Thank you to each of the people who are on the program. I appreciate each of you for taking time to be a part of such a wonderful morning.
- I would like to thank each of you for coming this morning to the City of Hattiesburg's prayer breakfast as we cross the lines of different religions and come together to celebrate our community, give thanks for our blessings, and pray for guidance and wisdom as we embrace the future.
- It is fitting that we are here on the National Day of Prayer.
- As many of you may remember, several months ago the Hattiesburg City Council adopted the City of Character Program.
- The program is designed to deliver positive character traits into the community, and build a stronger community filled with people who care about one another and care about the direction their City is taking.

- Since the City Council adopted this program in February of this year, we have been in the development phase of the program molding it to the needs of the City of Hattiesburg.
- On May 11<sup>th</sup> we will kickoff the next phase of the program as we give community members the opportunity to get involved at the onset of the program.
- From our gathering of interested citizens we will establish a core group of individuals who will serve as the driving force of the City of Character Program for Hattiesburg.
- We are excited about this program and the potential it holds for the people of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.
- I hope that throughout this morning's breakfast you will take a moment to think about the Hattiesburg community. Think about what our strengths are and what challenges lie before us. I would challenge you to step forward and get involved with the direction Hattiesburg takes in the future. We would welcome your presence

and your input as we build a stronger City-- a true City of Character.

- We are fortunate to have Sherrif Ray Nash as our prayer breakfast speaker. Several members of our administration have had the chance to hear Sherrif Nash, who has implemented a character program for his department, and now travels the country working with other law enforcement agencies and Cities of Character sharing the successes he has had with his program.
- I would like to leave you with two verses from Romans that I think are very fitting for today's prayer breakfast, and fitting as we enter the City of Character Program. This comes from

*Romans 15: 5-6      <sup>5</sup> May God who gives patience, steadiness and encouragement help you to live in complete harmony with each other—each with the attitude of Christ toward each other. <sup>6</sup> And then all of us can praise the Lord together with one voice, giving glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- (you don't need to say another word)
- Make sure Joey knows to step up as soon as you finish the verse.

