

Wonderful on Wednesday
Wednesday, May 17
Briarwood Presbyterian Church
6:00 p.m.

Remember to stand up straight and use low tones.

Opening

1. Thank you for asking me to visit with you this evening.
2. Always nice to visit at churches

Introductory Comments

Rev. Brawley asked that I speak with you about social justice issues in Mississippi, and I am sure that many of you have very similar concerns that our administration has outlined as issues that we want to positively impact and change for the betterment of all of the people of Mississippi.

Main Points

1. Children
 - A. Healthcare
 - i. Mississippi Health Benefits Program –

1. New marketing plan
2. New outreach plan

B. Education

1. Raising teacher pay to the Southeastern average – most critical issue
 - a. People said it couldn't be done
 - b. We did it and we did it together
 - c. 5% stipulation

2. Computers in every classroom
 - a. Advancement in technology – number of websites today vs. ten years ago
 - b. Task Force – a computer in every elementary and secondary public school classroom by the end of 2002.

2. Economic Development

A. Old plan is stale

- B. Developing a new plan with the first ever public/private partnership, co-chairing with Dwight Evans, MS Power
- C. New Plan to be revealed at a special session
- D. Must be able to compete with other states
- E. Provide new jobs
- F. Competitive salaries
- G. Keeping Mississippi's best and brightest students in the State
- H. Business community's commitment to education
- I. Know education of our children is the key to tomorrow's successes.

1. Mississippi Delta Region

- A. Attended conference in Washington
- B. Finding solutions for the people of the Mississippi Delta
- C. Delta Regional Authority

Closing Remarks

We have made great progress during the just completed legislative session, and we still have many challenges facing us. I am confident the we can find

solutions that work to improve the quality of life for every Mississippian.

That means we need your help. We need you to step forward and let your voice be heard about the issues that you feel are important. Talk to your legislators and stay informed about what is happening in the legislature so that your opinion is heard.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you as we make a better Mississippi for our children.