

May 22, 2001

Dear Fellow Mississippians:

I am requesting your support to address one of our society's most pervasive social issues that is eating at the heart of our families, children and communities. According to recent data published by the National Center for Fathering, 72.2% of all Americans indicate father absence as the most significant problem facing our country.

We are sure you are cognizant of all the facts impacting our children and families related to father-absent homes. The challenge for us now is to provide aggressive support that will restore a father's leadership role to his family/children.

According to Malachi 4:6, "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." As spiritual leaders, elected officials, caring parents and fellow Mississippians, we welcome your support of the Mississippi Responsible Fatherhood Initiative. We further invite you to be our special guest at the press conference designating the month of June 2001 as the month of Responsible Fatherhood. The press conference and workshops are scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2001, 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Mississippi State Capitol. The sessions are open to the public, so please, encourage your fellow church members, constituents, community leaders, friends and family to attend this spirit-filled event.

We are enclosing the agenda for the activities. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Sollie B. Norwood at (601) 359-4768 or 1-800-421-0762.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:AT:kfg