

Mississippi Woman 2000
“The Power of One”
Presented by: Governor & Mrs. Ronnie Musgrove
And
St. Dominic Health Services, Inc.
Monday, March 13, 2000
Jackson Hilton convention Center
8:45 a.m.
Keynote Address

Good Morning.

I am so pleased to be with you this morning, and the Governor and I are proud to be co-sponsors of “The Power of One” Conference.

This is the fifth annual women’s conference, and I want to commend the organizers of this worthwhile program and thank them for paying special attention to the needs of Mississippi’s women of today.

Who are the women of today? In my opinion, we are superwomen. We push ourselves harder than society ever dreamed that we could or would. We are in the workforce in larger numbers than ever before. Did you know that women represent almost half of the total national labor workforce? To me, that is an exciting statistic for our nation.

Along with being working women in the business world, we are also daughters, spouses, mothers,

caretakers, organizers, and the list goes on and on. It is almost overwhelming to think of what some of us take on in a day's time.

For many of us a typical day sounds something like this: You wake up, get ready to face the day, fix breakfast, make sure that everyone in the household is headed in the right direction, head out the door, get to the car, head back inside to collect the three things that you forgot on the first trip to the car, race to work or to begin on your list of "things to do", complete your daily tasks, start dinner, make sure that all of the children, pets and your spouse are at their correct extracurricular events at the correct time, eat dinner, do homework with the children, prepare your checklist for the next day, clean up after dinner, put everyone to bed, wash your face, kiss your spouse and fall into bed thinking all the while, " yeah, I get to get up and do this all over again tomorrow."

Our worlds these days can be a little overwhelming, and while we are trying to be all things to all people, it is easy for us to lose ourselves somewhere between driving to work and cooking dinner.

What we have to determine for ourselves is, what can I do to make my life better and more enjoyable?! We have available to us things that, quote, are designed to make our lives easier, unquote. I don't know about you, but I have found that many of the gadgets designed to make our lives easier are often times the things that frustrate me the most because I can't get them to work like they did on television or in the infomercial. Those gadgets usually end up in the kitchen junk drawer, collecting dust until I decide to organize my life by cleaning out the junk drawer and throwing away all unnecessary things in my life.

We do have other resources available to us like women's sites on the Internet or medical 1- 800 numbers to call if we have a question. Those are relatively new and different ways that we have available to us to find answers to many of our questions. The best way, though, that I have found to get information, that has been most valuable to me, has been by simply talking to other women and hearing what they have to say about their life experiences.

You may think that because I am here this morning talking to you at the beginning of the conference, that I have all of the answers, that my life is completely in control, and that I am one of those superwomen that I was referring to a moment ago, well, I can assure you, that is not the case.

(Insert personal story about when you thought you had everything in control and then not having it in control. Maybe life before the Governor was elected vs. getting elected and moving from Batesville to Jackson, the renovations and living in the apartment. (Note: I would not suggest getting into the security issues.)

You can definitely see, that I don't have all of the answers, but I can tell you that I am always looking for new ideas and ways to improve myself and make life better for myself and for my family.

That is why I am so pleased to be a part of "The Power of One" conference. This program that is designed by women, for women, has been created specifically with women's needs in mind. I congratulate each of you who came today, because you are attuned to your own needs. You are taking charge of your lives by looking at all resources available to you for answers and wisdoms on life, and

for that, I commend you. I wish that all Mississippi women could be with us here today to listen to the speakers, workshop leaders and entertainers who will share their thoughts, ideas, failures and successes with us as we look for answers to our questions.

The workshops that are offered today are fantastic. They range from topics such as achieving personal inner peace to knowing your legal rights and from business management to enhancing your personal and professional image. There is something here for everyone.

Before I return the program to Karen Jones, our emcee, there is one thing that I would like to share with you about what I do when everything seems totally out of control in the world around me. I take a moment, I step back, and look at what I am blessed with in my life. I have my loving husband, two happy, healthy and wonderful children, *insert more here*, and I have the opportunity to meet with, and talk to Mississippi women like you who I share so many similarities of life with. I am proud to be with you this morning, and I hope that you enjoy your day

here at “The Power of One”.