

Good News By Vic Dove

Pray For Leadership

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men. For kings and all who are in authority so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior. Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2: 1-4

To intercede simply means to come between. When used in the context of prayer-as it is here-it takes on a special meaning. To intercede is to stand between God and someone else. It is to represent another person's concern to God.

Our prayers are the link between God's inexhaustible resources and people's needs. When we intercede, we stand in the gap between the need and the satisfaction

of that need.

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he urged –or strongly encouraged-his young friend to intercede for everyone. Paul was asking Timothy to pray not for himself but for those around him.

Paul encouraged Timothy to pray for those in authority and included the reason why: “That we may lead a tranquil and quiet life.” The apostle knew that the gospel could be more easily spread in a peaceful environment, in particular, an environment where the governing officials were not hostile toward believers and their practices. Paul believed that intercession was part of the equation that could bring about such an atmosphere.

No doubt Paul also intended for Timothy to pray for the conversion of those in authority. He believed God wanted “all men to be saved.” Paul must have been familiar with what the writer of Proverbs said concerning saved leaders, “When the righteous are in authority, the

people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan” Proverbs 29:2.

Paul believed that through intercession, people could be changed. The term itself however implies that intercession does not bring about change. Intercession is the process that links those who need to be changed and the One who can bring about change.

When our lives are going along with no problems or any serious issues to deal with, we may not remember to pray for those in authority, because we take good government leaders for granted. It's easier to remember to pray when we experience some hard times. But we should never fail to pray for those in authority not only in our nation, but around the world, so that their cultures and societies will be sensitive to the spreading of the Gospel.

Shoulder to Shoulder,
Bro. Vic

GA Senate Passes Legislation Combatting Fentanyl, Swatting

ATLANTA | Today, Lt. Governor Burt Jones released a statement on the passage of Senate Bill 421, legislation aimed at addressing the act of “swatting”, and Senate Bill 465, also known as “Austin's Law” which combats the sale and distribution of substances such as fentanyl. The passage of these bills underscores Lt. Governor Burt Jones's ongoing commitment to protecting Georgia families and increasing public safety.

“Keeping Georgians safe is my top priority,” said Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones. “While gridlock and backroom politics in Washington have limited movement of legislation in regard to swatting and fentanyl trafficking, here in Georgia, we are

dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of our citizens. SB 421 will help to end the cowardly act of ‘swatting’ in Georgia. ‘Austin's Law’ will hold fentanyl dealers and manufacturers accountable and will help prevent the senseless deaths of Georgians.”

Senate Bill 421 – Addresses the act of “swatting” through its criminal statute addressing the transmission of false public alarms and makes changes to the sentencing structure of this criminal offense. Sponsored by Senator Clint Dixon (R – Gwinnett).

Senate Bill 465 – Addresses the sale and distribution of substances such as fentanyl by creating the new criminal offense of aggravated involuntary manslaughter. Sponsored by Senator Russ Goodman (R – Cogdell).

Is a public official working for the citizens when...?

- official doesn't update government's website and keep current
- official commonly uses derogatory ‘pet’ names for anyone who does not hold identical views or anyone perceived as questioning or challenging
- official limits information available on a government's website
- official offers solution which isn't a full solution, just to appear ‘helpful’
- official tells staff to ignore Open Records requests instead of responding to them, hoping that the person will not pursue the request
- official doesn't look for ways to be transparent, particularly with online information, limiting citizens right to know
- official calls citizen by name and labels a liar during public meeting?
- official tells citizens to take care of matters themselves, instead of enforcing ordinances?
- official creates community budget and minimizes board/council or citizens their right to know in advance and give input?
- official changes meetings to accommodate employee creating attendance problems for board/council and citizens.
- official constructs narrative for citizen by saying official held public meetings about which board/council never were informed.
- official pits people against each other to make one feel right and the other one wrong.
- official controls all the decision-making about everything including the responsibilities of a board/council.
- official claims truth is what's being said at the moment, instead of information in accordance with fact or reality
- official tells citizens to follow the law, but privately doesn't do it him/herself.