



The 2017 session of your Mississippi Legislature will soon be history. It was my first session to serve as the Director of your Christian Action Commission. What a privilege and responsibility you have given me to work with these Public Servants — men and women who sacrifice much to lead our state. Whether in Jackson or in their home district, they continue to serve as Public Servants — they need and deserve our prayers.

We read in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 where Paul said to Timothy, “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and hon-

esty.” I glean four Concepts from Paul’s admonition.

(1) We CAN PRAY BECAUSE of our Public Servants. The Bill of Rights in our state and nation was formulated and is preserved by our Public Servants. Our freedom of worship and the privilege of prayer are precious. Daniel lost that privilege but prayed anyway. We should take full advantage of the opportunity. Our National Day of Prayer is coming up on May 4 — be somewhere in a public place of prayer.

(2) We MUST PRAY FOR our Public Servants. Paul

exhorts us to do so. We pray for their wisdom and courage. We pray for their health and safety (whether traveling or out in the public). We pray for their spouses and families. We pray for them by name. We let them know we are praying for them.

(3) We SHOULD PRAY WITH our Public Servants. We have an annual Legislative Prayer Breakfast (which was January 12) where we invite our state officials and legislators to come and pray together. What a privilege to pray with them. We have a devotion and prayer time in the Capitol Building on

Tuesday mornings at 8:30 (had the privilege to speak on March 21) — what a blessing. Why not have a special service in your church or association and invite all your Public Servants to pray with you? Why not utilize them in your men’s, women’s or youth ministry to speak, and then pray with them? At our first Christian Leadership Institute at Blue Mountain College on July 9-13, 2018, we will have the opportunity to pray with our Public Servants.

(4) We WILL PRAY ABOUT our Public Servants. Our Public Servants are elected by us to serve — what a steward-

ship given to us. We must vote for the best choice (not perfect, not party), but best choice available. This should always be a matter of prayer (James 1:5). If you pray, you will vote. To vote for the wrong person is a sin of commission — to not vote is a sin of omission.

Most of us may never be an elected official, but all of us should be Public Servants. Prayer is a Public Service.

We are available to come to your church, association, camp, Bible conference, meeting, etc. Please pray for us.

*Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.*

## OBITUARY

**James “Jimmy” Edward King, 90,** of Hattiesburg, died Feb. 6. Graveside services were Feb. 8 in Hattiesburg at Moore Funeral Home with burial in Highland Cemetery. King was a member of Main Street Church. He served in the U.S. Army. He was a graduate of William Carey University, New Orleans Seminary, and did graduate work at

the University of Southern Mississippi. He was a Southern Baptist minister for more than 35 years, serving 26 of those years at Trinity Church in Wilma, Ala. After his retirement, he served as interim pastor for numerous churches. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Shirley King of Hattiesburg, and one brother, Tommy King, of Columbus.

## MS POSITIONS

JERICHO BAPTIST CHURCH, UNION COUNTY, IS SEARCHING FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please mail resume to Jericho Baptist Church, 2179 CR 171, Guntown, MS 38849.

WANTED: BIVO MIN. OF WORSHIP, NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, OXFORD, MS. Top line keyboardist, drums, guitars, small vocal team (no choir). Sundays with a weekly practice. Must be able to blend styles. Salary/experience. Ref’s. Email: buster@reagan.com; or call: 662-234.3650.

LEMOYNE BLVD. BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED IN BILOXI, IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A MUSIC MINISTER with a passion to lead a traditional and contemporary service. We hope to find someone who enjoys directing an adult and children’s choir, as well as leading a praise team. Please email resumes to secretary@lemoynebaptist.com.

SOUTHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR MINISTER OF YOUTH. Please email resumes to southwaybaptist@yahoo.com

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR - BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED AT MERIDIAN, MS IN THE WHYNOT COMMUNITY OF SOUTHERN LAUDERDALE COUNTY. Please email resume to office@whynotbethany.org or mail to Bethany Baptist Church 4475 Ponds Road Meridian, MS 39301.

## BIBLIOPHER

SIWYWLBYW C NDU ZMSB UBZ, PIDS

SICMHN NBWOWY UW GWNCYW,

PIWM UW EYDU, AWVCWOW SIDS UW

YWKWCOW SIWX, DMG UW NIDVV

IDOW SIWX.

XDYJ WVVOWM: SPWMSU-LBZY

Clue: P = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week’s puzzle: James 2:5

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## GORSUCH

cont. from p. 1

the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), a 1993 federal law at the heart of the case, protects individuals with minority religious beliefs as much as for-profit corporations owned by evangelical Christians.

Gorsuch told Hatch the 10th Circuit also held RFRA applied to a Muslim prisoner in Oklahoma who was denied a halal meal (*Abdulhaseeb v. Calbone, 2010*). “It’s also the same law that protects the rights of a Native American prisoner who was denied access to his prison sweat lodge, it appeared, solely because of a crime he committed, and it was a heinous crime but it protects him too” (*Yellowbear v. Lampert, 2014*).

“I wrote the [decision in the] Native American prisoner case and wrote a concurrence in the Muslim case.”

The Judiciary Committee is expected to vote on April 3 whether to send Gorsuch’s nomination to the full Senate for a formal confirmation vote. Observers have said they believe the nomination will be approved by the Judiciary Committee and sent to the full Senate.

Trump nominated Gorsuch to the high court in late January, nearly a year after the death of Associate Justice Antonin Scalia. Like Scalia, Gorsuch espouses a philoso-

phy and record of interpreting the U.S. Constitution and laws based on the Constitution’s original meaning and a law’s text, respectively.

The opposing viewpoint, held mostly by political moderates and liberals, espouses the Constitution as a “living, breathing document” that must be interpreted to include evolving cultural and social changes of the moment.

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville sponsored a letter Feb. 1 in which more than 50 Southern Baptist and other evangelical leaders called for the confirmation of Gorsuch.

The signers said they believe Gorsuch’s judicial philosophy meets the thresholds of their “core social principles.” Those precepts include in the Supreme Court’s purview “the protection of the unborn, the strengthening of religious liberty, and a dedication to human flourishing — which we believe can only be accomplished by a biblical definition of marriage and family.”

Gorsuch was raised a Roman Catholic but is currently an active member of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Boulder, Co., which is led by a female rector and uses the word, “inclusive,” on its web site.