

Beware of bedbugs

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Sept. 4-5, 2010.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—An excerpted news article titled "Bedbug City: 1 in 10 New Yorkers Has Grappled With Bedbugs in Their Home" was posted in the "Eye on the World" section on our Web site for the weekend of Aug. 21-22.

Although this subject may not be the most important topic in the world at this time, I wanted to share two more excerpted articles about the matter.

Maybe this information can help you as you prepare for any traveling.



An article by Nick Collins titled "Rise in Bedbugs Prompts 'Pandemic' Fears" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Sept. 1, 2010.

It said: "The growing problem of bedbugs, which feed on the blood of humans during the night, comes after a major epidemic in America where numbers are at their highest since the Second World War.

"Pest controllers warned that the world could be on the verge of a 'bedbug pandemic,' which could be complicated in Britain by the millions of bugs expected to be transported in the clothing of tourists travelling to the 2012 Olympics."

It later said: "The insects, which at about a fifth of an inch long are visible to the naked eye, tend to enter homes in clothing or furniture but can also move between properties through walls and floor cavities.

"They live in mattresses, bed frames, furniture near the bed and the join between the wall and floor, and come out at night attracted by the warmth of sleeping bodies and the carbon dioxide in breath.

"Their bites are not thought to spread disease, but can cause itching."



An article by Sophie Butler titled "Travel Advice: Hotel Bed Bugs" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Aug. 30, 2010.

It said: "Even if you pay a premium to stay in an expensive hotel, you run the risk of finding unwanted companions in your bed. A reader from London

recently emailed me to say she had been very badly bitten by bed bugs at a four-star hotel in Iceland.

“Even more horrifying, the insects travelled home with her and she now faces a bill in excess of £1,000 to get rid of them.”

It later said: “So how can you tell whether your hotel room has been infested? And if it is, what can you do about it?”

“Bed bugs are oval, brown and around 4mm to 5mm long—about the size of a ladybug. But because they are nocturnal, you can’t usually see them during the day. You need to check creases in mattresses, gaps under headboards, cracks in plaster or between timber floorboards, where they hide.

“Apart from the bug itself, telltale signs of infestation include dark pellets of faeces, yellowing cast-off skins and a distinctively sweet, sickly smell which you may be able to identify when you enter, in much the same way that you can smell if a room is damp.

“Bed bugs aren’t life-threatening but they feed on human blood during the night, consuming four times their body weight in under 15 minutes. Their saliva causes itchy, red spots that can be confused with mosquito bites. A key way to tell them apart is that bed-bug bites form a line, whereas mosquito bites are usually randomly spaced. Antiseptic soap, calamine lotion or anaesthetic creams can help soothe and avoid infection.

“If you find any bed bugs, you should change hotels—not just rooms. Baths are bug-free zones, so put your luggage in the tub while you check your hotel room.

“If you are bitten and think you may have brought bugs home, throw away your suitcase without bringing it indoors and wash your clothes at 60 degrees C [140 degrees Fahrenheit] or higher, or have them dry-cleaned.”