

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 9, 2010 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:30

Service next Sabbath: 1:00 p.m.

Order of service

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| Song leader | Neil McIver |
| Pianist | Dixon Cartwright |
| First sermon | J. L. Roden |
| Teen class—Classroom #1 | Jeanine Case |
| Bridges class—Library | Penny Harris |
| Kids' class—Classroom #2 | Mindy Forrestier |
| Interactive Bible study—Foyer | Bernie Monsalvo |
| Second sermon | Dave Havir |

Quick takes

1. Thank you—Thank you to all who participated in the variety show last Saturday evening.
2. Thank you—Thank you to the sound and stage technicians who served at the variety show last Saturday evening.
3. Frontier Girls lock-in tonight—Please give the Frontier Girls privacy for their event in the building tonight.
4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Counting the Cost" by Judith Biggs.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "The Power of the Past" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—This week's collection is by Jeanine Case

Prayer updates

Larry Haines thanks you for your prayers following his recent surgery.

James Moran had another tough week with his health challenges. He went to the doctor because of the continued pain in his stomach and because of other symptoms. Although the symptoms got slightly better toward the end of the week, he remains weak. Although **Laura** continues to make progress with her bronchitis and pneumonia, she appreciates your continued prayers.

As was announced orally last Sabbath, **Dorothy Jones** had made several trips to the emergency room due to extremely high blood pressure, with the top number ranging well over 200. After being anointed and taking magnesium, the top number dropped to 116. She appreciates your prayers.

Here are excerpts from a report by **Roger Bryant** of Sulphur Springs on Wednesday: "I'm home now. In bed more than out. Doesn't take much to tire me. E-mails will be short for a while. Surgery a complete success; got all the cancer; negative biopsy in all respects; chemo/radiation apparently not needed; just need to recover . . . Deep gratitude for all your kindness and prayers."

Although the infection afflicting **John Reid** of Bolivar, Mo., has improved, he still has swelling in his hands.

Norma Dick of the local United congregation continues to lose weight and strength and doesn't have much appetite. However, hospice is once again telling her that she cannot continue to stay in the facility.

New prayer requests

Ron Feaker is scheduled to see the doctor this week to determine a calendar date for the removal of a cataract on his left eye.

Paul Hill of Chapmanville, W.Va., learned that he has three blockages and was scheduled for heart surgery yesterday.

David Maas requests prayers for **Amanda Winters** of Wiley College, who has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure.

Dave La Ravia of Baraboo, Wis., who started having migraine headaches when he was 5 years old, reports that they have gotten worse as he has grown older. He recently had been suffering with a migraine headache for four straight days. He and 230 other people from Wisconsin have been chosen to participate in a migraine study related to a heart defect. He appreciates your prayers.

Charlotte Jacquet of Ruston, La., was hospitalized this week due to several falls. She is in a rehabilitation center while her daughter looks after her husband.

Leonard Martin of Ruston, La., died on Wednesday. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Bible study on Jan. 6

On Wednesday, Jan. 6, Dave Havir gave a Bible study titled "1st Angel—Revelation 14:6-7."

2 Chronicles 36:14-15—Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.

Jeremiah 7:25—“Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them.”

Revelation 11:7—When they [the two prophets who give witness] finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

Revelation 14:6-7—Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

“Counting the Cost”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of January 9-10, 2010.

By Judith Biggs

BIG SANDY, Texas—If you will just hand me that stack of dirty dishes, we will get started on how I met a real prophet.

The year was 1960 and I had decided to make a commitment to God. So I talked with a minister in the Church of God. The minister told me first to count the cost, second to repent and third to be baptized.

I thought about being martyred for Christ. I imagined myself hanging on a stake. I pictured people passing by and looking up with admiration. (Understand these were brave thoughts for someone like me, who at that time of my life would scream bloody murder over a splinter in my finger.)

Then I remembered that the Bible said somewhere that we were to become a living sacrifice. So much for my visions of grandeur.

That’s when my prophet gave me the news. The minister was trying to help me count the cost.

He asked if I was willing to spend the rest

of my life doing dishes in Big Sandy, Texas.

Why did that minister mention doing dishes in Big Sandy?

At the time I was living in California. Many in the Church of God would travel to Big Sandy to observe the Feast of Tabernacles. The location of the Feast of Tabernacles in East Texas was a pretty tough place to observe the Feast in those years. (It improved greatly through the years.)

It seemed that washing dishes in Big Sandy was the worst thing humanly possible that the minister could envision.

I said, “Sure.”

I was willing to help out at the Feast site. Besides, there would ultimately be Feast sites at other locations to attend.

Guess what. My husband and I moved to Big Sandy in July 1969. And now it is January 2010. My prophet friend didn’t realize how right he would be. I have washed a lot of dishes in Big Sandy.

Let’s take a coffee break and I will finish these dirty dishes later. After all, I will be doing them until death do us part.

“The Power of the Past”

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 January 9-10, 2010.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—It is edifying to learn how the power of the past and the power of the future influence the power of now. In this article, let’s consider the power of the past.

Learning lessons

There are many scriptures in the Bible that remind believers to learn lessons from the past. Here are just a few.

■ “Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you” (Deuteronomy 32:7).

■ “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

■ “Now these things became our examples . . . Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11).

Can be crippling

People sometimes allow the past to keep them trapped in negative paradigms and negative emotional responses.

Here are excerpts from *One-Way Relationship Workbook* by Alfred Ells.

From page 129: “We have all been wounded and brokenhearted at some time in our lives. We all can recall some event or time in our lives when we felt a deep wound of spirit. Our inner being felt pained and pierced to the depths . . .”

From page 134: “Ever know someone who cannot let go of the past? The person still thinks about old relationships, experiences, or events frequently. This is usually an indication of an unresolved hurt. The wound is crying out for attention, and we are responding by remaining stuck to the event or memory. Co-dependents are often stuck in the past. They may have trouble letting go of either the good or the bad parts of the past, and this holding on can interfere with present relationships.”

From page 149: “Most wounded people, although they keep it from showing on the sur-

face, never really heal. The wound is tender and sensitive and can be easily reopened by subsequent rejections. The old sores get touched again and again, never getting a chance to heal. An oversensitive, codependent person who keeps reacting because of the unhealed wound is the result. However, the wounds that scar over can be the most dangerous. Scar tissue is not as resilient and pliable as healthy tissue . . .”

From page 151: “The wounds of life are imprinted as memories and mental images. The painful feelings associated with the memories need to be released for the wound to be healed. Our memory of what we saw, smelled, touched, or tasted will usually remain the same. But the negative feeling associated with the event needs to and can be changed. This is the basis for all inner healing . . .”

From page 152: “There are cases where the wounding is so longstanding and so deep that only with God’s help can we forgive. But God will not set aside our free will and magically cause us to forgive. He can empower the decision, but the choice must be ours. We need to let go and let God take over our injustice, pain and resentments.”

Should be liberating

There are a few things that occurred in the past that can be liberating to your life.

Christ suffered and died for you. God raised Him from the dead.

■ “For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:11-12).

■ “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old . . . I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins” (Isaiah 43:18, 25).

■ “And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me’” (Luke 22:19).

■ “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (Romans 5:10).