

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 23, 2010 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:36

Service next Sabbath: 1:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	Reg Killingley
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	Bernie Monsalvo
Teen class—Classroom #1	Melodee Overton
Bridges class—Library	Penny Harris
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Leslie Harroff
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	Dave Havir
Second sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, we have the opportunity of sending speakers to three congregations. Ron Feaker is giving a sermon in Hope, Ark., Neil McIver is giving a sermon in Anacoco, La., and David Fisher is giving a sermon in Waco.
2. Thank you—Treasurer Don Mischnick thanks the members of the congregation who attended the meeting of the Budget Committee. A budget will be presented to the board at the next board meeting.
3. Thank you—The scouts thank the congregation for the use of the building for their activity last Saturday evening and Sunday morning.
4. Movie night—The movie scheduled for tonight is *Duma*. (If you have questions about the movie, feel free to contact Penny Harris.) It will begin at 6:00 p.m.
5. Board meeting—There is a board meeting scheduled for Monday at 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.
6. Chili potluck—There is a chili potluck scheduled immediately after the church service on Feb. 6.

7. Football party—There is a football party scheduled in the building on Sunday, Feb. 7.
8. Community variety show—There is a community variety show in the building during the evening of Saturday, Feb. 20. Although the event has an admission price, members of the congregation can gain admittance by contacting Dave Havir.
9. Edifying the Body—This week's article is " 'We Shall Beat Our Swords' Is Misleading" by Lenny Cacchio.
10. Among Friends—This week's article is "The Power of Now" by Dave Havir.
11. Eye on the World—This week's collection is by Jeanine Case.

Prayer updates

Although the doctor recommended a variety of procedures to help **James Moran** learn about the root of his stomach problems, Mr. Moran chose a CAT-scan (which he considered to be less intrusive than some procedures). While the test did not pinpoint the cause, it did eliminate some possibilities. Although he is still weak, he did travel to Longview on Thursday evening to conduct some counseling sessions.

Dorothy Thomas continues to have physical therapy in her home three days a week.

Although **Dorothy Jones** has good days when her blood pressure is better, she still has days when it fluctuates too much.

Margaret Mitchell of Tupelo, Miss., reports that she is recovering well following her surgery on Wednesday, Jan. 13. Although Margaret knows of other people who have had significant pain following similar surgeries, she mentioned that she had very little pain following her surgery. She appreciates all your prayers.

Please continue to pray for **Ken Omick** of Madison, Wis. (who with his wife, **Arlette**, spends the winters in Texas), as he approaches the time for him to exit the nursing home in Longview.

Janice Burton of Midwest City, Okla., who had a very aggressive malignant brain tumor removed in August, has undergone many radiation and chemotherapy treatments. She reports that she is feeling fairly well and has decided to forgo further chemo treatments at this time.

Bardet Lucas of Los Angeles, Calif., underwent surgery this week to remove the cyst. Here are excerpts from a report on Wednesday: "His wife says that when he came through the recovery room, he was more responsive than ever before and he said he was hungry. All very good signs."

John Reid of Bolivar, Mo., is still having difficulty using his hands (because of swelling) for the daily care of himself. And his therapy is not going as well as desired. He appreciates your continued prayers.

Larry Stoner of Lewisburg, Ohio, continues to improve in a rehabilitation facility after surgeries in July and November to amputate both legs below the knee.

Erma Adams of Walnut Creek, Calif. (mother of **James Moran**), died on Wednesday. She was 97. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Nadine Aldridge of Battleground, Wash., died yesterday. Please remember her husband, **Allyn**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

New prayer requests

Noel Cramer of Sandusky, Ohio, had a recurrence of cancer in his ear and was scheduled for surgery yesterday. (Plus, he had an attack of gallstones this past week.)

Leon Roeth of Arcanum, Ohio, recently had surgery to remove a brain tumor.

Mauricio Pinto of Guatemala died of cancer on Thursday, Jan. 14. Please remember his wife, **Maria**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Bill Weber of Spring Hill, Fla., died on Sunday, Jan. 17. Please remember his wife, **Sue**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Bible study on Jan. 20

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, Dave Havir gave a Bible study titled “3rd Angel—Revelation 14:9-11.”

Revelation 14:9-11—Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

Revelation 13:14-18—And he [another beast] deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Revelation 15:2—And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

Revelation 16:2—So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

Revelation 20:4—And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

“We Shall Beat Our Swords” Is Misleading

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 23–24, 2010.

By Lenny Cacchio

LEES SUMMIT, Mo.—“We shall beat our swords into plowshares” appears on a sculpture at the UN building. It’s a wonderful aspiration, and it bears a striking resemblance to a prophecy in Isaiah:

“Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’

“The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.

“They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”

Subtle but significant

Notice the difference, subtle but significant, between the biblical quote and the UN version.

“We shall,” according to the United Nations. “They shall,” in the biblical version, because the Lord “will teach us his ways” and because “he will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.”

The UN mantra implies that “we” can bring peace and prosperity. The 65 years of UN mandates gives more than a clue about

their ability or lack thereof to get it done.

“We” can’t even achieve peace in our own neighborhoods, let alone in the world as a whole. A critical something is missing, a something that the UN won’t acknowledge.

“He will teach us his ways.” “The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” “He will judge . . . and settle disputes.”

Talking serpent

When human beings take the serpent’s words for truth (“Ye shall be as gods”), they must conclude that they can bring the Millennium to earth through their own efforts. In relying solely on their own wisdom, they reject the only source who can truly bring peace, the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah again: “No one calls for justice. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil . . . Their deeds are evil deeds and acts of violence . . .

“Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are evil thoughts; ruin and destruction mark their ways. The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths.

“They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks in them will know peace” (Isaiah 59).

We shall beat our swords into plowshares, but first we have to learn how.