

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 30, 2010 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:49

Service next Sabbath: 1:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	David Havis III
Pianist	Julie Wilkins
First sermon	Neil McIver
Teen class—Classroom #1	Melodee Overton
Bridges class—Library	Penny Harris
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Leslie Harroff
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	Bernie Monsalvo
Second sermon	Dave Havis

Quick takes

1. Thank you—Thank you to Penny Harris for recommending the movie last Saturday evening.
2. Anniversary reception today—Jack and Norene Martz (62nd anniversary) and Kit and Elaine Holloway (50th anniversary) invite everyone in the congregation to enjoy cake and punch today after the church service in commemoration of their wedding anniversaries. They appreciate all of their friends and wanted to give refreshments to you.
3. Women's Conference meeting today—A short meeting about the East Texas Women's Conference is scheduled after the church service today. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Marcia Chambers, Laurie Fisher, Melodee Overton or Roxanna West.
4. Chili potluck next Sabbath—There is a chili potluck scheduled immediately after the church service next Sabbath. Some people may choose to bring chili for feeding purposes only, while other people will bring chili to be judged. (Make sure to let Penny Harris know if you want your chili to be judged. There will be a mild category and a hot category.) There will also be a potato bar and a salad bar for your enjoyment.

5. Slide show next Sabbath—Joe and Barbara Lingle will be showing many of their slides next Sabbath at 4:15 p.m.
6. Football party—There is a football party scheduled in the building on Sunday, Feb. 7.
7. 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.
8. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Removing Spiritual Calluses" by David F. Maas.
9. Among Friends—This week's article is "Jesus Taught Us Principles of Maturity" by Dave Havir.
10. Eye on the World—This week's collection is by Jeanine Case.

Prayer updates

Loren Edelbach continues to be very weak. **Ellen** reports that he "can barely walk from chair to bathroom or kitchen." They have discovered a home-health-care company that they hope will give them more assistance. (Please remember Ellen as she deals with a lot of stress and physical weakness.)

James Moran reports that he is making progress with his energy level and appetite. Please pray for his continued recovery.

Ken Omick of Madison, Wis. (who with his wife, **Arlette**, spends the winters in Texas), was moved on Thursday from the nursing home in Longview to the Beacon Hill Hospice (on Gilmer Road). Mr. Omick described that he was placed temporarily at the hospice facility as a "transitional" two-week period. He is in Room 10-B.

New prayer requests

Anna Booher of Louisiana requests prayers for her recovery for recent eye surgery.

Mali Allaoua of Germany had surgery to remove her thyroid. She is planning to have thyroid-cancer radiation in about four months.

Johanna Japhet of Orlando, Fla., has a peach-sized tumor against her bladder. It is apparently in a spot that is inoperable.

Donny Sindle of Doucette, Texas, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer that has spread to his bones.

Orin Waller of Ruston, La., died on Sunday. He was 87 and had been married for 53 years. Please remember his wife, **Idell**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Barbara Calhoun of Virginia died on Sunday. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Leola Johnson of Mountainburg, Ark., died on Monday. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Gail Miller of Spokane, Wash., died on Wednesday. Please remember her husband, **Perry**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Meredith Machin of Palm Coast, Fla. (22-year-old daughter of **Mike** and **Debbie Machin** and granddaughter of **Melton** and **Jacque McNeely**), died on Wednesday. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Synopsis of board meeting

Here is a synopsis of the board meeting that was held on Monday evening.

■ In the treasurer's report, Don Mischnick mentioned that donations in December were quite a bit higher than last year and therefore the year-to-date income for 2009 was down only 2 percent. (Considering the challenging economic times, this was better news than anticipated.)

■ The board unanimously passed the 2010 budget submitted by the Budget Committee.

■ In the pastor's report, Dave Havir mentioned the following five items: (1) The teen trip to Lexington, Ky., in December went very well; (2) the combined church service on Jan. 2 was well received by many; (3) he reminded the board members how well our congregation was serving the community by sponsoring community events in our building; (4) he mentioned that we will be sending a regular guest speaker to a congregation in Tyler—in addition to our helping Hope, Ark., Anacoco, La., and Waco; and (5) he mentioned plans for two more potential Feast sites—an Alaskan cruise leaving out of Seattle, Wash., and a site in Harrisburg, Pa. Board members expressed their support of Mr. Havir continuing to pursue these options.

Bible study on Jan. 27

On Wednesday, Jan. 27, Dave Havir gave a Bible study titled "The Power of the Past."

■ ***The past can be an anchor***

■ ***The past can be a magnet***

2 Peter 2:19-20—While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

■ ***We should learn lessons from the past***

■ *The power of the past can be liberating*

Ezekiel 16:8—“When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,’ says the Lord GOD.”

“Jesus Taught Us Principles of Maturity”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 30–31, 2010.

By **Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—In Jesus’ instructions that most people call the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encouraged His audience to be mature.

In Matthew 5:48 He said: “Be you therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Other translations use the word *complete* or *mature* instead of *perfect*.

How can a disciple become more mature? What is the context of this verse?

The context of Matthew 5 is Jesus showing how the wonderful law of God was to be magnified. He talked about the Sixth Commandment, the Seventh Commandment, a principle from Leviticus 19:12 and a principle from Deuteronomy 19:21.

Love your enemies

Then Jesus gave some instructions about loving people.

- He told people to love their enemies.
- He said that people should bless those who curse them.
- He mentioned that people should do good to those who hate them.
- He taught that people should pray for those who spitefully use them and persecute them.

Did Jesus know anything about being persecuted?

Of course He did.

Does Jesus expect us to follow in His footsteps?

That is the essence of what is called Christianity.

Falsely accusing

Years after the death of our Savior, the apostle Peter taught: Rejoice when you are

partakers of Christ’s sufferings (1 Peter 4:13).

He also taught: Jesus set an example of dealing with suffering (1 Peter 2:21). The context was being falsely accused, as Jesus was.

How does it feel to be falsely accused? It doesn’t feel very good, does it?

Wasting energy

What is the natural human reaction to being falsely accused?

■ First, some people openly display an aggressive attitude of revenge.

■ Second, other people display an attitude of revenge as a stated effort to seek “justice.”

With both these previous reactions, the person often does more falsely accusing toward other people than was actually done against him.

■ A third reaction is people spending excessive time and energy trying to prove their innocence.

In this scenario the person might or might not seek punishment of the alleged wrongdoers. Obviously, seeking punishment of others is not fulfilling our Savior’s example.

Don’t live in the past

But, even if a person is not seeking punishment of others, the exercise of spending lots of time and emotion attempting to clear a name or reputation is also not fulfilling our Savior’s example.

Spending lots of time and emotion seeking to clear a name in most matters is living in the past. It often keeps a person in unnecessary personal turmoil.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we should seek to be like our role model. He reflects the mind, character and will of our mature Father.