

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 6, 2010 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:56

Service next Sabbath: 1:00 p.m.

Order of service

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| Song leader | | Clay Forrestier |
| Pianist | | Dixon Cartwright |
| First sermon | | Bernie Monsalvo |
| Teen class—Classroom #1 | | Martha Mclver |
| Bridges class—Library | | Penny Harris |
| Kids' class—Classroom #2 | | Leslie Harroff |
| Interactive Bible study—Foyer | | Canceled |
| Second sermon | | Dave Havir |

Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havir is giving a sermon at the Tyler Sabbath Fellowship. (He is scheduled to be here for our church service.)
2. Chili potluck today—There is a chili potluck scheduled immediately after the church service today. (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.
3. Slide show today—Joe and Barbara Lingle will be showing slides of their recent trip to Israel today at 4:15 p.m.
4. Football party—There is a football party scheduled in the building tomorrow.
5. Community variety show—There is a community variety show in the building during the evening of Saturday, Feb. 20. If you need tickets to attend, please contact Dave Havir.
6. Scouts' Pinewood Derby—The Pinewood Derby of the scout program sponsored by our congregation is scheduled in our building on Monday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m.

7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Spiritual Epicureanism: The Godly Quest For Pleasure" by David F. Maas.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "Bad Things Do Happen to Good People" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—This week's collection is by Jeanine Case.

Prayer updates

This week **Loren Edelbach** began receiving in-home hospice care and **Ellen** began receiving more in-home health care. They appreciate your prayers.

James Moran continues to make slow but steady progress with his energy level and his appetite. Please pray for his continued recovery.

Ron Feaker reports that his eye surgery on Tuesday went well.

Donna Weese continues to struggle with anxiety. Please remember her in your prayers.

Margaret Mitchell of Tupelo, Miss., reports that her doctor gave her a "clean bill of health" this week. She appreciates your prayers.

Ken Omick of Madison, Wis. (who with his wife, **Arlette**, spends the winters in Texas), was recently placed temporarily at Beacon Hill Hospice (on Gilmer Road) in Longview and is scheduled to be released on Thursday. He is in Room 10-B.

Mary Newell of Lakewood, Ohio, went to a hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, after experiencing pain in her head that was causing difficulty of movement, especially on her right side. Tests have shown that her tumor has grown again, is impacting the carotid artery and is beginning to affect her spinal cord.

New prayer requests

The mobile home of **Veronica Hildreth** in Marshall burned to the ground early Monday morning. No one was hurt, but the family lost everything in the home. The Red Cross has been helpful with temporary housing and with assistance in replacing some clothes. (Thankfully, some of the children's clothes were at the grandparents' home.) She and the family appreciate the prayers of their brethren.

Here is a report about **Carolann Darden** of Arcadia, Calif.: "She feels that unless God intervenes she probably has, at most, only a few weeks left to live as a consequence of her aggressive cancer and deteriorating ALS condition (Lou Gehrig's disease). She is currently being treated at home for pneumonia and dehydration. She is unable to speak clearly enough to be understood (even by family now) and is extremely weak at this time."

Glenn Lay of Sapulpa, Okla., learned of a large, cancerous tumor in his chest and another tumor on his kidney. The cancer has "basically destroyed" three ribs in his chest.

Ken Collinsworth of Ruston, La., learned from a biopsy that he has a malignancy in his prostate.

Here is a report about **Janice Spieker** of Willow Lake, S.D., who was diagnosed with brain cancer: "A fast-growing type of cancerous tumor has pushed into her brain from the lower right in the back and is now pressing on the spinal cord, causing dizziness and numbness on her left side and some confusion. It is inoperable because of how it has grown into the brain. They gave her a prognosis of only six to 12 weeks to live without treatment, with the possibility of a few months with aggressive treatment, calling her situation 'very dire.'"

Rhonda George of Anchorage, Alaska, had a brain hemorrhage and has been placed in a drug-induced coma.

Harold Rhodes of Gulf Breeze, Fla., was taken by ambulance to a hospital on Tuesday due to an infection on his backside (that was described as "flesh-eating bacteria"). Doctors have apparently ruled out MRSA. They have done several surgeries to try to stop the spread of the infection.

Diane Cooper of Jackson, Tenn., was experiencing "severe tingling and numbness on the left side of her face and body" on Monday.

Marie Welch of Fort Wayne, Ind., went to the emergency room on Tuesday due to high blood pressure.

Bill Cagle of Tulsa, Okla., is experiencing an irregular heartbeat.

Frans Louwinger of Zoetermeer, Netherlands, died on Friday. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Bible study on Feb. 3

On Wednesday, Feb. 3, Dave Havir gave a Bible study titled "The Power of the Future."

■ *God gives people a glimpse of the future because He loves us*

2 Chronicles 36:15—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.

John 13:19—"Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He."

John 14:29—"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe."

John 15:15—"No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

John 16:33—"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

■ *To warn, to encourage and to comfort*

Luke 23:28-30—But Jesus, turning to them, said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!’ Then they will begin ‘to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’”

“Bad Things Do Happen to Good People”

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 Feb. 6–7, 2010.

By **Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—On Feb. 26, 2005, I gave two short sermons as a two-part series titled “Bad Things Happen to Good People.”

It has become one of my goals in life to debunk the popular health-and-wealth gospel, which permeates the thinking of people inside and outside the Church of God movement.

I enjoy planting and watering these good seeds and then watching God give the increase.

Laying the foundation

In the first sermon I mentioned three facts.

■ Fact No. 1 was that behavior has consequences.

Consequences are a part of life. They are sometimes a part of life even when people are seeking God’s forgiveness. There are examples in the Bible that show both God’s forgiveness and some continuing consequences.

■ Fact No. 2 was that God does not often-times give us what we deserve.

Isn’t it great to consider God’s tremendous mercy? God’s grace is overwhelming.

■ Fact No. 3 was that bad things happen to good people.

The biggest reason people cite for embracing the health-and-wealth gospel is Deuteronomy 28:1-68.

This chapter does indeed talk about obedience leading to blessings and disobedience leading to curses. But people take this

principle way too far.

When good things happen, is it always because you were good? When bad things happen, is it always because you were bad?

In the first round of Job’s trials, he suffered the loss of his family, business and possessions. In the second round of Job’s trials, he suffered the loss of his health.

Did Job lose these things because he was bad? Not according to Job 1:1 and 2:3.

The apostle Peter explained that believers must be partakers of Christ’s sufferings. Then he showed the difference between suffering for our own foolishness and suffering for Christ.

In 1 Peter 4:15 Peter said: Do not suffer as a murderer, thief, evildoer or busybody.

In verse 16 he said: If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed.

Two examples

In the second sermon I covered two well-known examples.

First I talked about the trials in the life of Joseph in the Old Testament.

When Joseph was talking to his brothers at the end of the book of Genesis (Genesis 50:20), he said something to the effect: “Although you thought to do evil against me, God had a good purpose in mind. He was saving many people.”

Next I talked about Jesus of Nazareth.

When Peter gave a sermon on Pentecost at the beginning of the book of Acts (Acts 2:22-24), he said something like: “Although you killed Jesus of Nazareth, God had a remarkable purpose in mind. He was saving many people.”