

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 24, 2010 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:23

**Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.**

### Order of service

|                                      |       |                  |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------|
| <b>Song leader</b>                   | ..... | Reg Killingley   |
| <b>Pianist</b>                       | ..... | Dixon Cartwright |
| <b>First sermon</b>                  | ..... | Neil McIver      |
| <b>Teen class—Classroom #1</b>       | ..... | Jeanine Case     |
| <b>Bridges class—Library</b>         | ..... | Carol Bald       |
| <b>Kids' class—Classroom #2</b>      | ..... | Mindy Forrestier |
| <b>Interactive Bible study—Foyer</b> | ..... | Dave Havir       |
| <b>Second sermon</b>                 | ..... | Dave Havir       |

### Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Ron Feaker and Bernie Monsalvo are speaking in Hope, Ark.
2. Thank you—Thank you to the Mischnick family for hosting the swim party last Sunday. (Thanks to Joni Pendley for making it happen while her parents were unexpectedly out of town.)
3. Water party at the Deans'—There is a water party (swimming pool and tubing on Lake Gladewater) scheduled at the home of Aaron and Michelle Dean tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Turn Ye Again" by Lenny Cacchio.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "Unto the Pure, All Things Are Pure" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—This week's collection by Dave Havir has 12 pages.
7. Last week's Eye on the World—Since we ran out of copies of last week's Eye on the World, you may still get a copy by contacting Dave Havir.
8. Last week's Bible study—On Wednesday, July 21, Dave Havir gave a Bible study titled "The Land Is Full of Bribes."

## Prayer Updates

**Nancy Sharp** had her surgery on Monday in Dallas and had a very difficult week. The original plan was to remove stones from her left kidney on Monday and from her right kidney on Tuesday. However, her condition was worse than anticipated. Instead of finding stones, the doctor apparently found a massive buildup of calcium in her left kidney. He was not able to finish the cleansing of her left kidney on Monday. She was sent to ICU, where a doctor inserted a breathing tube and she has been heavily sedated to keep her comfortable. The doctor told the family yesterday that her kidney is producing too much acid, that her body is filled with carbon monoxide and that her brain is swollen. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

**Gracie Feaker** went to the doctor on Thursday and heard a report about her left eye. The doctor gave a prescription for her to get a new lens and new glasses. He gave her an even stronger lens for the right eye. (He said they would wait a while before removing the cataract from her right eye.) She is scheduled to put drops in her left eye for one more week. She appreciates your prayers.

**Kit Holloway**, who has been dealing with an upper-respiratory infection, reports that he is doing better. The infection had settled in his ear, which affected his hearing.

**Melba Evers** of Albertville, Ala. (mother of **Jeannie Roden**), had her open-heart surgery postponed again for the second time. It is now scheduled for this coming Wednesday.

**Gerald Gill** of Kunkletown, Pa. (father of **Dave Havir**), who had a stress test on Thursday, July 15, went to the doctor on Tuesday and heard a good report. The doctor gave him permission to drive again. Obviously, this news pleased him immensely. He appreciates your prayers.

## New prayer requests

**Beria Ruth H. Lorenzo** of Manila, Philippines, has been diagnosed with degenerative disc disease, which has been characterized by spine instability and a herniated disc.

**Scott Erhart** of Van Buren, Ark., has been diagnosed with degenerative disc disease, which progressively moves up the spine.

**Alan Knight** of Lynnwood, Wash., shattered his ankle in a fall from a ladder. He appreciates your prayers.

**Paul Herrmann** of Metairie, La. recently learned that he has a prostate problem.

**Gerry Berg** of Hope, B.C., Canada, died on Tuesday. Please remember his wife, **Maxine**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

## “Turn Ye Again”

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 July 24–25, 2010.

By Lenny Cacchio

**L**EE’S SUMMIT, Mo.—“Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever” (Jeremiah 25:5, KJV).

If you are inclined to blame political leadership for all the wrong in our country, you need to rethink your inclination. Sometimes political leadership is nothing more than a reflection of the people it represents, and that is especially true in a representative republic such as ours.

In the last chapter of 2 Samuel, King David makes an appalling mistake. At the time, he is a powerful figure in the Middle East. He has conquered lands as far away as present-day Iraq and beyond. He has friendly relations with the Lebanese to the north and the Egyptians to the south. His nation’s enemies are at his feet, and there is no national security interest for any further conquests.

But, instead of glorifying God for his fortune and fame, he is moved to take a census of his troops in a possible precursor to more warfare.

This seems mighty stupid for a man who has everything, but, according to the text, stupidity wasn’t the issue. In 2 Samuel 24:1 we see that he was more likely just a bit player in this display of hubris. Instead, it was the sins of the people that led God to take away David’s sound judgment: “The anger of the LORD was roused against Israel, and he moved David against them.”

According to this, God was angry with the entire nation, and therefore, in order to move the nation back to Him, He moved David to make a stupid decision.

The point is this. We can rail against ineptitude in our elected officials, but they might lack wisdom in judgment because the people of our nation don’t want leaders who have the fortitude to make tough, prin-

cipled decisions. As in the words of Isaiah: “This is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; who say to the seers, ‘Do not see,’ and to the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits’” (Isaiah 30:9-10).

Don’t tell us that we can no longer live beyond our means. Don’t tell us that pet spending projects and earmarks for my state are killing us. Don’t tell us that we need to sacrifice in order to successfully prosecute a war.

Rather, tell us we need to spend more, and borrow more, and receive more benefits. Tell us that it’s okay to bust up families because the kids of such unions are resilient and probably better off anyway. Tell us that pornography is a victimless crime in spite of evidence that it is as destructive an addiction as any.

In short, if it feels good do it. Whatever floats your boat. You are free to do anything you want, but let’s not bring God into the equation, and, frankly, I really don’t give a hoot what happens to anybody else as long as my team wins the game this weekend and the pizza-delivery truck can make it to my neighborhood.

It might be that the culmination of decades of moral and cultural decline is finally presenting its harvest to us and that the wind that was sown by the atrophy of the old ways has become the whirlwind we see before us.

It just might be that the poor judgment we see in our leaders is not their fault but our own. It just might be that turning back to the ideals to which we once aspired, but admittedly never quite attained, will once again lead us to choose leaders who have the wisdom and foresight that comes from the Father of lights.

Or, in the words of Shakespeare’s Cassius to Brutus: “The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves.”

## “Unto the Pure, All Things Are Pure”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, [churchofgodbigandy.com](http://churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of July 24-25, 2010.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—There is an interesting verse found in Paul’s letter to Titus. In the Bible it is identified as Titus 1:15. It reads as: “Unto the pure, all things are pure. But unto them who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure.”

Let’s ask two quick questions.

■ Would God consider you pure?

We can quickly think of scriptures that seem to indicate that no person is innately pure. Some are Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10; Romans 7:14-21 and Romans 8:7.

Yet, we also read about a distinction in Revelation 22:11. It appears that some people will be unjust and filthy, while other people will be righteous and holy.

What’s the difference? We believe the difference to be God inside people.

In the example of Job, we see a person who was upright and obedient (Job 1:1,8) and still needed to draw closer to God (Job 42:1-6).

■ What is your perspective of life?

We all have a lens (paradigm) through which we see life. That lens affects our

relationships.

A positive person is more likely to see a set of circumstances through a positive lens. A negative person is more likely to see a set of circumstance through a negative lens. Believers seek to be positive.

However, let’s not allow our desire to be “pure” to influence us to be naive and gullible. Believers are instructed to be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16).

Have you ever been surprised by the actions of people because their actions were ruder or meaner than you expected? Have you ever been taken advantage of by people because you didn’t quickly recognize their evil intent?

In those situations, your “pure” (noble) expectations were higher than the behavior actually extended toward you.

Remember Proverbs 14:15 “The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps.”

In conclusion: Let’s seek to be upright and obedient in our Christian walk. And then let’s seek to be wise and harmless in our dealings.

## “Eye on the World”

This short news item from the “Eye on the World” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, [www.churchofgodbigandy.com](http://www.churchofgodbigandy.com), was posted for the weekend of July 24–25, 2010.

**A**n article titled “Man Who Threatened ‘South Park’ Arrested” was posted at [thesmokinggun.com](http://thesmokinggun.com) on July 21, 2010.

It said: “The Virginia man who this year threatened the creators of ‘South Park’ over an episode featuring the Prophet Muhammad dressed in a bear suit was

arrested today on federal charges after speaking openly to the FBI about his connection to a terror organization and his plans to travel overseas to fight with the group. Zachary Chesser, 20, was charged with providing material support to Al-Shabaab, a terror group affiliated with al-Qaeda.”