

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 31, 2010 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:18

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

### Order of service

<b>Song leader</b>	..... Ron Avey
<b>Pianist</b>	..... David Maas
<b>First sermon</b>	..... David Maas
<b>Teen class—Classroom #1</b>	..... Melodee Overton
<b>Bridges class—Library</b>	..... Carol Bald
<b>Kids' class—Classroom #2</b>	..... Mindy Forrestier
<b>Interactive Bible study—Foyer</b>	..... Canceled
<b>Second sermon</b>	..... Stan West

### Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havir is speaking at a Christian Renewal Conference in Chicago. Tomorrow, he will be conducting an interactive Bible study.
2. Guest speaker and pianist—The congregation welcomes David Maas, who will be giving the first sermon and playing two selections of special music.
3. Thank you—Thank you to the Dean family (Aaron, Michelle and A.J.) for hosting the water party last Sunday.
4. Potluck next week—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service next week.
5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "I Am Barabbas" by Lenny Cacchio.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "Beware of Con Artists" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week's collection by Dave Havir has 12 pages.
8. Last week's Bible study—On Wednesday, July 28, David Maas gave a Bible study titled "Fruits of the Spirit—Peace."

## Prayer updates

**Nancy Sharp**, who was very close to death following her surgery in Dallas on Monday, July 19, made progress this week. The breathing tube was removed on Sunday and the feeding tube was removed on Monday. As was mentioned last week, the doctor was able to remove a significant amount of the calcium from her left kidney. Because of the complications, the doctor was not able to address the significant amount of calcium in her right kidney. She was scheduled to return to the nursing home in Gladewater yesterday.

**Norene Martz** had an MRI on Wednesday. Mrs. Martz, who previously had X rays, learned that she does have fractured vertebrae in her lower back. While she's having difficulty with her heart, the pain in her back eclipses her heart situation.

**James Moran** reported that his chemotherapy has been going fairly well.

**Jeannie Roden** reports that the open-heart surgery for her mother (**Melba Evers** of Albertville, Ala.) went well on Wednesday.

## New prayer requests

**Roxanna West** and four of her grandchildren were in an automobile accident on Wednesday. They are appreciative that no one appears to be seriously injured.

**Jack Martz**, who two weeks ago broke a finger, had it set in a cast. He was scheduled to have the cast removed yesterday.

**Pam Dewey** of Georgia learned last week that she has a serious problem with glaucoma. She and **George** appreciate your prayers.

## "Beware of Con Artists"

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 31–Aug. 1, 2010.

By **Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Last week, I talked about the scripture in Titus 1:15 that reads: "Unto the pure, all things are pure."

I reminded readers to be careful not to allow our desire to be "pure" to influence us to be naive and gullible.

Con artists often seek to prey upon senior citizens for the following reasons: (1) loneliness, (2) trusting too easily, (3)

more easily confused by double-talk, (4) vision loss, (5) hearing loss and (6) less stamina to resist persistent individuals.

Let me share with you eight of the common scams that con artists seek to use against senior citizens.

■ **"In the house"**: Although caregiver agencies are required by law to do background checks on all potential employees, many don't bother. And not all employees have criminal records. They just can't

resist the temptation to snatch unattended cash, other items or personal information.

■ **“I.O.U.”**: Some seniors are easily persuaded to loan money to relatives, employees, neighbors and “friends” who will never pay them back.

■ **“For a good cause”**: Anyone can start a nonprofit organization. Scammers often choose names for their fake nonprofits that can easily be mistaken for the names of well-known real nonprofits.

■ **“You’ve already won”**: Official-looking documents designed to trick recipients into thinking they’ve won money are worded carefully in order to stay legal. Crucial information is often hidden in tiny italic and/or all-capital-letters type, because reading italics and all caps is much harder for people with low vision.

■ **“Talk to me”**: Seniors are prime targets for sleazy telemarketers. The seniors are home and they are friendly. And they

are often too quick to divulge their credit-card and bank-account numbers.

■ **“Doom on the doorstep”**: Some scammers ring doorbells and claim to be representatives of the local gas or water company. They say they have been sent to check or to fix something.

■ **“Friendly and inexpensive repairmen”**: Some scammers offer to do some inexpensive repair work around the house. They often persistently request money in advance. Often, they leave before the job is completed.

■ **“Engine trouble”**: Some scammers wait in parking lots to disable cars of elderly drivers, typically detaching a sparkplug wire. When the car doesn’t start, the scammer poses as a helpful passerby.



Remember to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matthew 10:16).

## “Eye on the World”

These three short news item from the “Eye on the World” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, [www.churchofgodbigsandy.com](http://www.churchofgodbigsandy.com), were posted for the weekend of July 31–Aug. 1, 2010.

**A**n article by Ashok Sharma titled “India Tests Interceptor Missile” was posted at [arabnews.com](http://arabnews.com) on July 26, 2010.

It said: “India on Monday successfully tested an interceptor missile capable of destroying an incoming ballistic missile, after canceling a launch earlier this year due to technical glitches, an official said.”

**A**n article by Jeffrey Kofman titled “BP Oil Spill: Clean-Up Crews Can’t Find Crude in the Gulf” was posted at [abcnews.com](http://abcnews.com) on July 26, 2010.

It said: “For 86 days, oil spewed into the Gulf of Mexico from BP’s damaged well, dumping some 200 million gallons of crude into sensitive ecosystems.

“BP and the federal government have amassed an army to clean the oil up, but there’s one problem—they’re having trouble finding it.

“At its peak last month, the oil slick was the size of Kansas, but it has been rapidly shrinking, now down to the size of New Hampshire.”

It said later: “The numbers don’t lie: two weeks ago, skimmers picked up about 25,000 barrels of oily water. Last Thursday [July 22], they gathered 200 barrels.”

**A**n article by Sarah Lyall titled “Britain Plans to Decentralize Health Care” was posted at [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com) on July 24, 2010.

It said: “Even as the new coalition government said it would make enormous cuts in the public sector, it initially promised to leave health care alone. But, in one of its most surprising moves so far, it has done the opposite, proposing what would be the most radical reorganization of the National Health Service, as the system is called, since its inception in 1948.”

## "I Am Barabbas"

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 31–Aug. 1, 2010.

**By Lenny Cacchio**

**L**EE'S SUMMIT, Mo.—He sits in the dungeon, knowing that before the day is over he will be executed in the most brutal manner that Roman law allows. He'll be scourged within a hairs-breadth of death, and then nailed to a stake to die slowly and painfully, paying for his crimes of insurrection and murder against the powerful Roman occupier.

Less than a half mile away, a powerful Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, fearing for his own career and life, struggles between the demands of expediency and justice. An obviously innocent man has been railroaded into his presence. The religious leaders, for whatever reason, want Him dead, a gruesome task that Roman law won't let them carry out themselves, and hence their invitation to Pilate to do the deed for them.

Over Pilate's head is a threat. This man claims to be a king, but we have no king but Caesar, say Jesus' accusers. If you don't do something about Him, you're no friend of Caesar. We'll make sure Caesar knows that you took no action against one who claims to be a king and is trying to usurp Roman authority. Caesar already has suspicions about you. Do you want to risk this?

Pilate vacillates, but he believes he sees a way out. At the Feast of Passover it is customary to release one criminal, granting him a complete and unequivocal pardon. Why shouldn't that prisoner be Jesus?

Earlier in the week the people of the city welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with hosannas and shouts of praise. Surely they would demand the release of Jesus called Christ and not the release of a murderer and thief.

"Whom do you want me to release to you?" asks Pilate. "Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" (Matthew 27:17).

"Barabbas!" they shout back.

"What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"

"Let Him be crucified!" (verses 17-24).

"Why? What has He done?"

"Crucify Him!"

Less than half a mile away is Barabbas. He is close enough to the activity taking place down the street to hear the rabble yelling his name, but far enough away that he cannot hear Pilate pleading for the life of Jesus. He can hear only one side of the conversation. When he hears his name on the lips of an angry mob, he has hope that his supporters are coming to rescue him.

"Barabbas! Barabbas!"

His fellow revolutionaries are coming to his aid!

But the very next words he hears freeze him with fear and dread, because what he hears is, "Barabbas! Crucify him! Crucify him! Barabbas! Crucify him!"

The guards rush into his cell and drag him off the floor. After the shoving and dragging and struggling, the murderer and thief finds himself in the street among the mob, now a free man. But a completely innocent man takes his place on the instrument of death.

Did Barabbas feel any twinge of remorse when he saw Jesus carrying His cross? Did he watch as Jesus and two of Barabbas's compatriots slowly expire as they baked in the sun?

We don't know. But I do know this. I am Barabbas. I was in bonds because of my crimes. I deserved nothing less than the penalty that had awaited Barabbas.

I am Barabbas because one day I found myself free of the guilt, completely pardoned because Someone for no reason that I deserved stepped forward and took my place. My guilt gone, my life restored, I now have the chance to live, and this time truly live.

Life: the gift to Barabbas and to me. For I am Barabbas.