

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 7, 2010 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:12

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	Reg Killingley
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	Neil Mclver
Teen class—Classroom #1	Martha Mclver
Bridges class—Classroom #1	Martha Mclver
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Mindy Forrestier
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	Bernie Monsalvo
Second sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Ron Feaker is giving a sermon in Tyler.
2. Potluck today—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service today.
3. Pastor's Feast schedule—Dave Havir finalized his Feast schedule and purchased his tickets on Thursday. His travel schedule is listed later in this bulletin.
4. Feast speaking schedule—Now that Mr. Havir's Feast schedule has been determined, the rest of the Feast speaking schedule is almost complete. We will post it on the Web site this coming week and put it in the bulletin next week.
5. Rates for Destin Feast site reduced—We are pleased to announce that the housing rates at the Pelican Beach Resort in Destin have been reduced for the 2010 Feast of Tabernacles. If you need more information, please see Dave Havir.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "His Enemies Understood What His Disciples Did Not" by Lenny Cacchio.

7. Among Friends—This week's article is "Dogmatic Proclamations About Prophecy" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's collection has 12 pages.
9. Last week's Bible study—On Wednesday, Aug. 4, Dave Havir gave a Bible study titled "Judges in the Old Testament."

Pastor's Feast schedule

Normally, Dave Havir finalizes his travel schedule for the Feast of Tabernacles in May. However, this year he delayed his action for two reasons.

First, although Mr. Havir believed that the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico would not cause us to cancel the site in Destin, we still took our time to analyze the situation.

Second, Mr. Havir strongly considered not traveling so much this year and spending more time at two sites—Myrtle Beach and Destin.

Then, Mr. Havir listened to people who logically convinced him that he should follow his tradition of being at the opening of a new site and therefore to be at the beginning of the Alaska cruise. When he committed to going to Seattle, he knew he could follow his habit of spending a night in his home during the Feast and of spending a morning at the local site.

Therefore, he finalized his schedule and purchased his tickets on Thursday. He is scheduled to be in Seattle, Wash., on Sept. 23-24, in Big Sandy on Sept. 25, in Myrtle Beach on Sept. 26-27 and in Destin on Sept. 28-30.

Even though Mr. Havir sees people for only a short time at the various sites with this schedule, he is happy to be able to see so many friends during the festival.

Prayer updates

Nancy Sharp felt better as the week progressed. She appreciates visitors.

Norene Martz reports that she had a rough week. The pain in her back was very intense this week. But the bigger problem this week was her difficulty in breathing—she described it as "fighting for her breath." She believes this is due to the weakness of her heart. She requests your continued prayers.

Jeannie Roden reports that her mother (**Melba Evers** of Albertville, Ala.) continued to do well following her surgery and was able to return home.

New prayer requests

Rex Jamerson of Kansas City reports that he has a bulging disc and a bone spur in his neck. He is scheduled for three epidural injections of steroids in his spine.

Morris Collier of Paragould, Ark., has prostate cancer.

Carol Schmidt of Staunton, Ill., has bone cancer. She had screws put in her spine to prevent the bones from breaking and a brace in her leg to keep it from breaking.

Iva Clemmons of Winnsboro (91-year-old mother of **Peggy Ditto**) died on July 28. Please remember the family in your prayers.

“Dogmatic Proclamations About Prophecy”

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 Aug. 7-8, 2010.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—My approach to prophecy is a quite a bit different from the approach of many religious people who write or speak about prophecy. Let me give you some examples.

■ Many people claim to speak for God when they are merely giving imaginations of their own heart (Jeremiah 23:16-17).

Although I am happy to quote scriptures about prophecy, I don’t claim that God has told me exactly how to interpret them to the audience.

■ We as writers and speakers about prophecy are giving our private interpretations. Some of those men and women are so deluded with their self-importance that they don’t realize they are giving private interpretation. Others are manipulative because, although they realize that they give private interpretation, they claim it is from God anyway.

Although I am happy to quote scriptures about prophecy, I prefer to announce that my opinions about prophecy are private interpretation.

■ When some people quote scriptures, they dogmatically claim that God was directly speaking to a specific nation in our present.

When I quote scriptures, I prefer to mention the context and the intended audience in the history. And then, while I won’t dogmatically claim that God was directly

speaking to a specific nation in the present, I will give my opinion that it seems to apply at this particular time. I like to take the approach “If the shoe fits, wear it.”

Let me give you some examples.

Although God was probably not talking directly about the United States government in Isaiah 1:5-6, I believe the description applies to our nation. Are the leaders incompetent? Or are they deliberately overwhelming the system to push for structural change in our system? If the shoe fits, they will wear Isaiah 1:5-6.

Although God was probably not talking directly about the United States government in Micah 3:11, I believe the description applies to our nation. Look how the desire for power and money is influencing most people who claim to be leaders. If the shoe fits, they will wear Micah 3:11.

As you can see by the last two paragraphs, I am willing to state my opinions. But I don’t want to be presumptuous in attributing my opinions as the direct interpretation of Scripture. Also, I don’t want to be presumptuous in attributing my opinions to the mind of the Eternal God in heaven.

Friends, be careful when listening to people who claim to teach prophecy. Some of these people know less about prophecy than you do. But they may be more arrogant than you are. Or they may just be louder than you are.

Please do not be fooled by dogmatic proclamations about prophecy.

“His Enemies Understood What His Disciples Did Not”

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 Aug. 7-8, 2010.

By Lenny Cacchio

LEE’S SUMMIT, Mo.—The chief priests and Pharisees took Jesus more seriously than His own disciples. At least it appears that way in one instance.

Jesus had been crucified and sealed in His tomb. The disciples had scattered to the four winds, evidently afraid for their lives. In spite of Jesus’ many references to His impending death, they didn’t seem to grasp that He meant what He said. He was, after all, the Messiah, the one who was to redeem Israel. How could the great Messiah be a dead Messiah?

Neither could they grasp His sometimes cryptic references to His resurrection from the dead. Early in His ministry such oblique comments as “destroy this temple and raise it up in three days” did not exactly spell out what the game plan was. Later on, as the day approached, He would call His disciples aside and tell them clearly what was about to happen. Still, they didn’t grasp it.

“Far be it from you, Lord, that this should happen to you,” they said, as if the very destiny for which Christ came did not need to be fulfilled, that we would not need a Savior to conquer our worst enemy.

The irony in all this is that the chief priests

and Pharisees knew exactly what Jesus was saying. After the crucifixion they approach Pilate to ask of him a favor:

“Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first” (Matthew 27:63-64, NKJV).

It would be nice to know how they came to understand this when Jesus’ only clear references to His resurrection were to His disciples privately. Was there an informant among the disciples, a Judas type or even Judas himself? Did the private conversations become somewhat of a public discourse?

While we might not know how they came to understand Jesus’ words, we do know this: that Jesus’ enemies understood what Jesus said and took it more seriously than His disciples.

Could it be that the enemies of Christianity today recognize the threat that the teachings of Jesus present to their worldview in ways that the followers of Jesus do not? Could it be that they see what we do not?

“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, was one of many posted for the weekend of Aug. 7-8, 2010.

An article by Joe Garofoli, John Wildermuth and Demian Bulwa titled “Prop 8 Judge Strikes Down Same-Sex Marriage Ban” was posted at sfgate.com (*San Francisco Chronicle*) on Aug. 5, 2010.

The article mentioned that Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker struck down Proposition 8 (which was California’s ban on same-sex marriage) on Wednesday.

The article quoted Douglas Napier of the Alliance Defense Fund of Scottsdale, Ariz. (an attorney who defended Prop 8), as saying: “Those that want to uphold traditional family values are going to be outraged. The whole nation is watching, and the whole nation should be quaking to think that a single judge sitting in California can reverse the will of 7 million voters.”