

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 21, 2010 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:58

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	Ron Avey
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	J.L. Roden
Teen class—Classroom #1	Jeanine Case and Holli Mischnick
Bridges class—Library	Carol Bald
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Leslie Akins
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 Waco.
2. Housing at Myrtle Beach Feast site—Due to other events in the Myrtle Beach area, please make your reservations as soon as possible.
3. Rates for Destin Feast site reduced—If you need more information, please see Melodee Overton or Dave Havir.
4. Excused-absence forms—If you need an excused-absence form for the upcoming feast days, see Dave Havir.
5. Financial assistance for those staying in Big Sandy for the Feast—If anyone in the congregation who is staying at our site here in Big Sandy for the Feast of Tabernacles needs financial assistance, please contact Dave Havir.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Forty Summers in the Word" by Lenny Cacchio.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "A Grandmother's Life-Changing Choice" by Dave Havir.

8. Eye on the World—This week's collection has 20 pages.
9. Last week's Bible study—On Wednesday, Aug. 18, David Maas gave a Bible study titled "Fruit of God's Holy Spirit: Patience."

Prayer updates

Norene Martz is considering the injection of a substance between two vertebrae to see if that will help relieve the pain.

James Moran went to the doctor on Tuesday to evaluate his chemotherapy treatment. Beginning on July 19, Mr. Moran was taking four pills a day—two in the morning and two in the evening—for a whole week. He was scheduled to take the pills for one week and then skip the pills for a week. This week was his third week of taking pills. Since Mr. Moran has not been having obvious side effects, the doctor on Tuesday increased the amount of daily pills from four to five. The doctor gave him the choice of taking the three in the morning or the three in the evening. Since the pills cause Mr. Moran to be a little tired, he decided to take the three pills in the evening.

Dorothy Jones went to the doctor in Dallas on Monday. The doctor wanted her to stay in Dallas to be monitored to determine if she needs a pacemaker. Since she did not want to stay in Dallas, the doctor arranged for her to receive a monitor in the mail to use at home.

Dorothy Thomas reports that her outpatient physical therapy is going well.

Donna Weese reports that after a three-month blood test she received a medical diagnosis (reactive hypoglycemia). She appreciates your prayers.

Pam Havir gives the following report about her 8-year-old nephew, **R.J. Sanchez**, who recently underwent surgery for a mass on his liver: "The family is pleased to report that R.J. does not have lymphoma as the doctors suspected. However, they do not know what is wrong with his liver. They are consulting specialists. Please continue to pray for his complete healing."

As was mentioned orally last Sabbath, **Zachary Sterban** of Nashville, Tenn., who had recently been in an automobile accident with his brother, **Tyler**, died on Friday, Aug. 13. Please remember his family in your prayers.

New prayer requests

Jean Benedict fell on Monday evening and broke her left hip. She was admitted to the Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview and had surgery on Tuesday. The doctor considered placing a pin in the area, but decided for a hip replacement. On Friday, she was moved to Room 2251.

Laura Moran was experiencing severe abdominal pain due to diverticulitis.

Melvin and Lou Green request prayers for their 2-year-old great-grandson (**Aiden Barnes** of Denton). After a trip to the dentist, the dentist capped a tooth that turned out to be abscessed. The little guy spent a few days in the hospital but was able to return home on Wednesday. (As an aside, the Greens had two messages for the congregation. First, they wanted to tell everyone that they miss seeing you. Second, they raved about the high quality of the DVDs that they receive from us.)

Grant Chick of Queensland, Australia, was recently diagnosed with testicular cancer. He had surgery on Aug. 13 and is now recovering at home.

Curtis Appleby of Beaumont died on Sunday evening. (Mr. Appleby was the ex-husband of **Nancy Sharp**. Although Nancy was pleased to be away from his troubled life, she tried to stay in contact with him through the years to help him.) Please remember the family in your prayers.

“A Grandmother’s Life-Changing Choice”

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 Aug. 21–22, 2010.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I learned about an incident that saddened me and inspired me at the same time. How is that possible, you may ask. Sometimes, the lessons of an event do not need much elaboration, because the story tells it clearly.

Allow me to tell you about Sharrel Blankenbaker of Felt, Okla. (which is a small town in the panhandle of the Sooner State), based on many published reports.

Mrs. Blankenbaker died on Aug. 3, 2010. She was married to her husband, Dale, for 36 years. They had three sons and eight grandchildren.

Sharrel was noted for setting an example of sacrifice for the people she loved. And she certainly loved her grandchildren.

Visiting grandchildren

She was excited as she made plans for the visit of two grandchildren from California. Dylan is a 16-year-old boy, and Cassidy is 12-year-old girl.

The two grandchildren flew in to the airport in Amarillo, Texas. Dylan and Cassidy had arrived at the airport at 3:30 p.m. to begin a two-week visit at their

grandparents’ house.

Sharrel took another grandchild (a 5-year-old) in the car with her on her two-hour trip south to Amarillo.

The four of them (grandmother and three grandchildren) spent the afternoon shopping, running errands and dining with relatives.

On the way home

As they were preparing to make the trip north, they stopped at a Love’s convenience store in Amarillo to get drinks and to use the restrooms.

As they were exiting the store just after 9 p.m., a pickup truck blocked their path and a man got out.

The man grabbed Cassidy’s arm, pointed a handgun at her head and told her to get into the truck.

At this time, Dylan picked up his little cousin and ran inside the store to call 911.

Dangerous predator

Before we continue with the story, let’s notice some background information.

Just 10 minutes previous to the attempted kidnap of Cassidy, the attacker had attempted to kidnap a 31-year-old woman

at another convenience store about a half mile away.

And then, 10 minutes after Cassidy's episode, the attacker came upon two 11-year-old girls walking along a road. The man stopped his truck and forced one of the girls inside at gunpoint. The other girl ran away and got help.

About 15 minutes after this abduction, a Potter County deputy spotted the truck. When the young girl saw the deputy, she opened the passenger door and dived out of the moving vehicle into a ditch.

When the attacker fired shots at the deputies, they returned fire. At 9:27 p.m., the attacker was dead.

Previous instruction

Now back to Cassidy.

As many parents are known to do, Cassidy's mother had diligently given instructions to her children about how to deal with an attempted kidnapping. She had periodically told her children how to handle such a situation.

Cassidy's mother, Barbara, had told the children never to get into a vehicle. Mom had said that if they get into a vehicle they

most likely will not survive.

Barbara told them: "Make the biggest scene you can. Fight them, scream, run away if you can. But don't you ever get into that car."

Cassidy resisted

So, when the attacker pointed the handgun at Cassidy's head and told her to get into the truck, she refused and began to struggle.

At that point, Sharrel moved toward the man and told him to let Cassidy go.

The attacker then pointed the gun at Sharrel and reportedly asked her if she wanted to die.

Sharrel apparently answered no. But the attacker shot Sharrel, piercing her lung.

Dylan helped Cassidy find the safety of the store as the attacker fled the scene.

It is reported that a witness to the shooting held Sharrel's hand and prayed for her as she lost consciousness. He said that her last words were about her grandchildren and protecting them from harm.

Sharrel Blankenbaker died because she loved and protected her three grandchildren.

"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. 21–22, 2010.

An Associated Press article titled "Saudi Judge Asks Hospital If It Can Damage Convict's Spine As Punishment for Paralyzing Man" was posted at foxnews.com on Aug. 19, 2010.

It said: "A Saudi judge has asked several hospitals in the country whether they could damage a man's spinal cord as punishment after he was convicted of attacking another man with a cleaver and paralyzing him, the brother of the victim said Thursday.

"Abdul-Aziz al-Mutain, 22, was left paralyzed and subsequently lost a foot after a fight more than two years ago. He asked a judge in northwestern Tabuk province to impose an equivalent punishment on his attacker under Islamic law, his brother

Khaled al-Mutairi told The Associated Press by telephone from there."

It later said: "Saudi Arabia enforces strict Islamic law and occasionally doles out punishments based on the ancient legal code of an eye-for-an-eye. However, King Abdullah has been trying to clamp down on extremist ideology, including unauthorized clerics issuing odd religious decrees.

"The query by the court, among the most unusual and extreme to have been made public in the kingdom, highlights the delicate attempt in Saudi Arabia to balance a push to modernize the country with interpretations of religious traditions that critics say are out of sync with a modern society."