

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 31, 2011 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:22

Service next Sabbath: 1:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	.....	Clay Forrestier
Pianist	.....	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	.....	Dave Havir
Teen class—Library	.....	David Havir III
Bridges class—Classroom #1	.....	Carol Bald
Kids' class—Classroom #2	.....	Various teachers
Interactive Bible study—Foyer	.....	Bernie Monsalvo
Second sermon	.....	Ed Costanza

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Ed and Lou Costanza from Albuquerque, N.M. Mr. Costanza is giving the second sermon today.
2. Thank you—Thank you to Mr. Costanza for giving the Bible study in the main hall at 1:00 p.m. today.
3. Thank you—Thank you to Clay Forrestier for doing some repair projects in the building this week.
4. Potluck meal today—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service today.
5. Today's schedule—Here is the schedule for the activities today and tonight.

■ 4:00 p.m.	Potluck meal
■ 5:30	Setup for the carnival
■ 6:00	Parade of costumes—Bring your cameras
■ 6:30	Carnival games

6. Carnival games tonight—Some of the games at the carnival tonight include:
 - Bounce House—for all ages
 - Miniature golf
 - Dominos
 - Video games for teens
7. Potluck meal week—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service next week.
8. Movie night next week—There is a movie night scheduled at 6:00 next Saturday.
9. Board meeting—There is a board meeting scheduled for Monday, Jan. 30, at 7:30 p.m.
10. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Church of God Is Not a Franchise" by Dennis Moulard.
11. Among Friends—This week's article is "#2—A Lying Tongue" by Dave Havir.
12. Eye on the World—This week's Eye on the World is 24 pages.
13. Wednesday-night Bible Study—This past Wednesday Bernie Monsalvo gave a study titled "The Book of Esther—Part 2."

Prayer updates

Both **James** and **Laura Moran** had a difficult week with digestive troubles and general weakness. Laura was scheduled for an MRI on Thursday (as a follow-up to her fall on Dec. 27, 2010), but she was unable to keep her appointment.

As was announced orally last Sabbath, **Vonda Ouellette** fell on Thursday, Dec. 23, and fractured her left shoulder. (She mentioned that her situation is much like the recent shoulder injury to **Marilyn Boston**.) At a follow-up doctor's appointment, he mentioned that the "bone had jammed into her rotator cuff." Her daughter **Theresa** has been staying with her. Home health is scheduled to come into the home three times a week, starting on Monday. She is scheduled to see a specialist on Thursday.

Nadene VanLaecken (mother of **Laurie Fisher**) reports that she continues to feel better. She thanks everyone for the prayers.

Lisa Wenger of Hawkins was transferred from East Texas Medical Center in Tyler to the Lindale Health Center in Lindale.

Ellis Stewart of the local United congregation wrote the following thank-you to our congregation: "I want to thank you for your prayers, love and concern during and following my recent open-heart bypass surgery. God has certainly answered our prayers. I had my six-week follow-up last week and my surgeon removed all my postoperative restrictions. I'm so happy that I can do just about anything I want to now, including driving a car. Thanks again."

New prayer requests

Julie Wilkins requests prayers to help her deal with some health issues.

Nancy Sharp has been experiencing severe pain, which is apparently another kidney stone.

Linda Kaplan of Orlando, Fla., recently began coughing up blood and went to a doctor. Testing revealed that she has a tumor at the top of her left lung. It has been cutting off air from entering, so the lung is not functioning as it should. She and her husband, **Mark**, appreciate your prayers.

Ken and **JoAn Westby** of Federal Way, Wash., request prayers since JoAn lost her job this week.

Frank Speck of Kilgore died on Dec. 10. Please remember his wife, **Teressa**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Norm Rowe, formerly of Big Sandy, died on about Dec. 22. Please remember his wife, **Yvonne**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Opal Reece of Flint (former employee of Ambassador College) died on Dec. 14. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Rusty Howard of Fort Smith, Ark. (nephew of **Laura Moran**), died on Dec. 23. (He had suffered an aneurysm in Arkansas but died while being airlifted to a hospital in Houston.) Please remember the family in your prayers.

Ephesians 4:20-25—But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

Ephesians 4:26-27—“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:28-32—Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by [which] you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 5:1—Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

“#2—A Lying Tongue”

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 Dec. 31, 2011–Jan. 1, 2012.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—One of my favorite sections of Scripture is Proverbs 6:16-19. The reason is that I can clearly identify seven traits that God hates and seven traits that God loves.

It is important to notice that the devil reflects the seven traits that God hates.

This week, let’s look at some verses that mention “a lying tongue” (verse 17).

The father of lies

When Jesus was involved in a verbal confrontation with some of His critics (John 8), they made a derogatory reference about His virgin birth (verse 41). He responded by talking about characteristics that they learned from their father figure (verse 44).

John 8:44—“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

One of the greatest lies perpetuated in this world by the serpent is that there are no consequences for disobedience.

Genesis 3:4—“Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.’”

This world is filled with lies and deception. The Bible is filled with verses that show that God hates a lying tongue.

Exception to the rule

While it is important to understand God’s clear instructions against lying, it is enlightening to notice one example of lying that is actually noted as an act of faith.

There are two clear examples of mentioning Rahab in a positive light.

■ Hebrews 11:31.

■ James 2:25.

Sometimes, believers have trouble accepting that Rahab lied. Yet she told the same lie in four different ways. Notice the following

four statements from Joshua 2:4-5.

■ “The men came, but I didn’t know from where.”

■ “When it came time to close the gate at dark, the men left.”

■ “I don’t know where the men were going.”

■ “Pursue after them quickly. You can catch them.”

Rahab made those comments, even though she had hidden the men on her roof (verse 6).

Dangerous trait

Although believers can recognize the godly reason for Rahab’s lie, they must also understand that the Bible warns us in many locations about the negative consequences of the vast majority of lying. Here are a few.

Proverbs 10:18—“Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.”

Proverbs 12:19—“The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.”

Proverbs 12:22—“Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.”

Proverbs 17:4—“An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.”

Proverbs 19:22—“What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar.”

Proverbs 21:6—“Getting treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.”

Proverbs 26:28—“A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin.”

Colossians 3:9—“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.”

Revelation 21:8—“. . . All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”