

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 21, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:57

### Bible studies

**Interactive study—1:00 p.m.** . . . . . Kemmer Pfund

**Presentation study—2:00** . . . . . Wynn Skelton  
(Also transmitted live)

### Order of service—3:00 p.m.

**Song leader** . . . . . Neil McIver

**Pianist** . . . . . Dixon Cartwright

**Scripture reading** . . . . . Psalm 37:1–29

**Sermon** . . . . . Wynn Skelton

### Quick takes

1. Guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Wynn Skelton to the congregation today. Mr. Skelton is scheduled to give the 2:00 p.m. Bible study and the sermon during the 3:00 p.m. church service.
2. Guest speakers—The congregation is pleased that various guest speakers are scheduled to give presentations here.
  - Today            Wynn Skelton
  - Aug. 28        Morris Foster
3. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havir is giving a sermon in the Houston area. He is scheduled to be back in town tonight (and available for the memorial service for Ron Feaker on Sunday).
4. Memorial service in our building on Sunday—The memorial service for Ron Feaker will be in our building on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. If you are able to provide some food for the family, please contact Linda Avey.
5. Wednesday-night Bible study on Aug. 25 at 7:00—Dave Havir is scheduled to continue his series about the “Armor of God” in Ephesians 6. People are encouraged to attend in the building or via a live transmission.

6. Please remember to pray for the following people who are presently in an assisted-living facility (or a nursing home) and are not able to regularly attend our church service

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| ■ Elaine Holloway | ■ Ronnie Shirley |
| ■ Laura Moran     | ■ Donna Weese    |
| ■ Annette Payne   |                  |

7. Please remember to pray for the following people who live at home but are not able to regularly attend our church service

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| ■ Mickey Ashcraft         | ■ Ruth Roe          |
| ■ David and Becky Bonilla | ■ Sonny Rosenberger |
| ■ Timberly Dunnam         | ■ Elaine Townsend   |
| ■ Vi Lehman               | ■ Donna Weese       |

8. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Catastrophe for Afghans, Israel and America" by David Horowitz.

9. Among Friends—This week's article is "Armor of God—Shield of Faith" by Dave Havir.

10. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 40 pages.

## Prayer updates

On Thursday, **Laura Moran** had a procedure to remove fluid from her lungs. (This is the third time that the doctors have chosen to perform this task.) Family members have appreciated many of the efforts of the hospital staff. They have had slow success in arranging for some physical therapy, but they are scheduled for a meeting on Monday to resolve the issue. They appreciate your prayers.

Although we have not been successful in getting the latest updates concerning **Herman Stevenson** (husband of **Dorothy Stevenson**), who is recovering from a stroke, we know that the Stevensons appreciate your prayers.

As we have mentioned in recent bulletins, **Jimmy Rogers** of Denton is dealing with various health matters. We will mention two of them here. First, he went to a hospital in Plano (on Friday, Aug. 13) to have the transesophageal echocardiogram procedure (sending an instrument down the throat to assess the function of his faulty heart valve). The test confirmed that the heart valve had not gotten significantly worse. Second, he is scheduled to have another CT scan on Sept. 2 to monitor a spot on his lung. He and his wife, **Jean**, appreciate your prayers.

## Thought for the week

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."—*Genesis 50:20*

## New prayer requests

Please pray for people who have been diagnosed with covid. They include **Don Cochran** of Big Sandy, **Debbie Rogers** of the Waco congregation and **Tolton Smith** from our congregation.

**Ken Martin** of Atlanta, Ga., is in the hospital after experiencing a brain aneurysm on Thursday.

**Josephine Gibson** of Toone, Tenn., died on Aug. 17. Please remember her husband, **Steve**, and the rest of the family in your prayers. (Son **Steven Gibson** and his family regularly attend our Feast site in Destin, where the younger Mr. Gibson regularly gives sermons. He is scheduled to speak again this year.)

**Ron Feaker** died on Aug. 18. Please remember the family in your prayers.

**Joseph Rogers** of Denton died on Aug. 19 from a covid-related issue. Please remember his wife, **Gayle**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

**Gary Petit** of Atkins, Ark. (pastor of an independent congregation in Russellville, Ark.), died in a one-vehicle crash on Aug. 19. Please remember the family in your prayers.

## Recent topics at Wednesday-night study

The following list of Bible-study topics at the recent Wednesday-night Bible study is given for two reasons. First, this will give members of the congregation the opportunity to listen to subjects that they may have missed. Second, the pastor thinks that it is important for the congregation to see what subjects are on his mind.

- July 7            Revelation 12:9—Who Is the Devil?
- July 14          Revelation 12:9—Who are the Devil's Angels?
- July 21          Revelation 12:9—The Devil and His Angels Were Cast Out
- July 28          Armor of God—Belt of Truth
- Aug. 4            Armor of God—Breastplate of Righteousness
- Aug. 11          Armor of God—Gospel of Peace
- Aug. 18          Armor of God—Shield of Faith

## Scriptures to consider

**Job 1:8**—"Then the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?'"

**Job 1:11**—"But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

**Job 2:5**—"But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

## “Armor of God—Shield of Faith”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Aug. 21, 2021.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—One of the most encouraging sections of Scripture is found in the book of Ephesians. In that letter, the apostle Paul described a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:10-13) and the spiritual weapons (verses 14-17) available for the children of God to use.

In this article, we will discuss the fourth weapon—the shield of faith (verse 16).

### **What He had promised**

One of my favorite sections of Scripture to describe faith is found in Romans 4:19-21.

**Romans 4:19-21**—“And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

I love that phrase “what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

Do you remember what God had promised to Abraham back in Genesis 17?

**Genesis 17:7**—“And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.”

**Genesis 17:16**—“And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her.”

### **Faithful people make mistakes**

Please let me show you something in the Bible that I simply love. The role models in the Bible are as human as you and I are.

Remember Romans 4:20-21? Did you notice the phrase that Abraham “did not waver” in verse 20? Did you notice the phrase about Abraham “being fully convinced” in verse 21?

■ Genesis 17:17—Abraham laughed at

God’s plan—suggesting that he father a child at his age.

■ Genesis 17:18—Abraham negotiated—suggesting an alternative plan to God about having the seed to continue through his son Ishmael instead of fathering a new son.

Couldn’t that be considered wavering? Couldn’t that be considered not being fully convinced?

Sure, he was generally convinced. And our heavenly Father was understanding and forgiving toward Abraham when he was behaving like most humans.

At this time, allow me to mention two reasons people have a problem with faith.

### **Misinterpreting a promise**

First, I believe that people misinterpret promises.

**Mark 11:23-24**—“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

Will a person have whatever he “says” (asks for)?

**James 4:3**—“You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

### **Confusing faith and hope**

Second, I believe that people confuse faith and hope.

■ I believe that faith is based more upon facts—knowing and accepting the promises.

■ I believe that hope is based more upon feelings and emotions—anticipating the promises.

■ I believe that faith and hope work together.

■ Acts 24:14—believing all things

■ Acts 24:15—hope in God