

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 14, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:35

### Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. . . . . Dave Havir

Presentation study—2:00 . . . . . Dave Havir  
(Also transmitted live)

### Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader . . . . . Neil McIver

Pianist . . . . . Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading . . . . . Hebrews 11:17–22

Sermon . . . . . Mark Weiss

### Quick takes

1. Video presentation in the building tomorrow—Shirley West, Bernice Burson and Dave Havir are planning to watch a YouTube video (*Is Genesis History?*) tomorrow in the church building at 1:00 p.m. The video lasts 1 hour and 44 minutes. Anyone is welcome to join them. (Not only is Mr. Havir inviting anyone from our congregation, he informed and invited some citizens in the community who attend other denominations. Even if other people choose not to attend, the three individuals mentioned above are looking forward to watching the video and discussing it afterwards.)
2. Wednesday-night Bible study—The next Wednesday-night Bible study is Jan. 18.
3. Chamber of Commerce dinner on Thursday night—This is a reminder that the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner is scheduled in our building on Thursday night. (The doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner starts at 6:30.) If you are a widow who desires to attend, please let Dave Havir know so that he can arrange for you to have a ticket to participate in the event.

4. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.
 

■ Mickey Ashcraft	■ Ruth Roe
■ David and Becky Bonilla	■ Sonny Rosenberger
■ Timberly Dunnam	■ Ronnie Shirley
■ Elaine Holloway	■ Elaine Townsend
■ Annette Payne	■ Donna Weese
5. Bad weather doesn't stop us—Since the beginning of this congregation, it has been our tradition to avoid canceling a church service due to weather. We expect each individual to use personal judgment and freedom for himself and his family. (Besides, you could join our Internet audience to watch our presentations online.)
6. Loss of electricity could slow us down—Although the circumstance would be rare, we would probably cancel a church service in the building due to a loss of electricity. (However, knowing our audience, anyone who showed up might enjoy a small Bible study—as long as we stayed warm enough.)
7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Quotes from Martin Luther King Jr." by History.com staff.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "Is Genesis History?" by Dave Havar.
9. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 39 pages. (This edition has four articles and 343 headlines.)

## Prayer updates

Following is an update from **David Coleman**: "I had my staples removed today [Wednesday]. I am healing up good. I am sore. I probably will miss another week of church. I feel every bump in the road while traveling in the car. Thank you for the prayers."

Following is an update from **Martha McIver**: "I am feeling much better—almost no coughing—but I still have no energy. I have taken all my meds, so I am no longer contagious. My doctor has ordered one more week of bed rest, and then I can start to really get my strength back. Thank you to everyone for all the prayers."

Following are two updates from **Becky Bonilla** about her husband. On Monday, she reported: "**David's** liver labs show liver damage, but we are not sure why. He will have an ultrasound today. We hope to talk with hospice care tomorrow." On Tuesday, she reported: "David is doing much better. Thank you for all the concern."

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Shirley Spearman** has been experiencing trouble breathing and a fluctuating heart rhythm, and she was scheduled to see a cardiologist on Wednesday.

**Bernice Burson** appreciates your prayers as she continues to make progress in dealing with the scorpion sting.

Following is an update on Wednesday from the family of **Mel Edelbach** of Elgin, Minn. (father of **Jeanine Case**): “The second surgery was a success. He is still in the hospital, but eating. He is in good spirits and grateful for the prayers.”

**Kelly Barfield** of Big Sandy continues to recover from his bout with pneumonia and atrial fibrillation.

**Carlos Gutierrez** of Big Sandy went to an ER this week with ongoing painful complications from a surgical procedure last month.

## New prayer requests

Since **Dave Havir** recently heard that **Tim Kelley** of Hawkins had been experiencing a variety of health challenges for more than a year, he talked with Mr. Kelley last Tuesday. Mr. Havir sent the following update to people on Wednesday. (Mr. Kelley gave permission to share details, because he views his recovery as a blessing and a praise report.) Mr. Havir wrote: “Since I just learned about the history, I now ask you to pray for Tim Kelley and **Angie**. At the 2021 Feast, he got covid and pneumonia. When he was in the hospital (around November 2021), a CT scan revealed that he had a lump on his left kidney. The left kidney was removed, and he was diagnosed with stage-4 renal-cell carcinoma. (Although he is still considered stage-4, he felt fine during this past year.) In November 2022, he had trouble sitting, and a CT scan revealed that he had ‘rectal abscess’—so a doctor cut out three pounds of his ‘bottom,’ and he is doing better.”

**Stephanie Hollenstain** of Big Sandy is experiencing complications after back surgery.

**Shirley Ellison** of Tyler recently fell.

On Wednesday, **Wade Johnson** of Knoxville, Tenn., had vascular surgery.

**Lori Kemp** of Knoxville, Tenn. (who had been suffering with intestinal issues for three weeks), had her appendix removed on Friday.

**Sara Cruise** (who has been living with a daughter in North Carolina) died on Jan. 5. Please remember her family in your prayers.

## Thought for the week

“Abortion denies a human being the opportunity to say ‘yes’ to God’s grace.”—*Bishop Joseph Strickland*

## Thought with a twist

When is the worst time to have a heart attack?  
Answer: When playing charades.—*Reg Killingley*

## “Is Genesis History?”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbigandy.com](http://churchofgodbigandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 14, 2023.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a series about the book of Genesis. The title of part 1 was “Is Genesis History?”

At the beginning of the Bible study, I made the statement that I decided that I should begin the series about the book of Genesis by addressing the “elephant in the room.”

So I posed two questions.

■ Are the Biblical accounts of the early part of the Book of Genesis (chapters 1-11) real events?

■ Or are they merely religious stories to inspire people?

(For the record, I believe that Genesis contains historical events.)

### Churches drifted

To show a little history about how the perspective of many religious people has changed through the years, I quoted from an article by (Ph.D.) Andrew A. Snelling titled “Genesis: Real, Reliable, Historical” that was posted at [icr.org](http://icr.org) (Institute of Creation Research).

“The first eleven chapters of the Bible have been relegated by many to the category of myths, not real history. These are said to contain spiritual truth, but they cannot be taken seriously as records of real people and events . . .

“An alarming number of Christian leaders and teachers instead believe that God ‘created’ through evolutionary processes over millions of years, that Adam and Eve descended from hominid population, and that there has never been a global flood—suggesting that the account of Noah and the Ark is a story adapted from a Babylonian myth.

“Mainstream Christian orthodoxy regarded the opening chapters of Genesis as just as real and reliable as the rest of the Bible until 150-200 years ago. So what happened?

“This downgrading of the early chapters of Genesis has coincided with the rise of uniformitarian philosophy as the cornerstone of modern geology and of evolution as the core of modern biology. Christians have been ignorant of the process that has gradually changed their whole approach to the Bible.

“Consequently, Christian churches throughout

the world reject the early chapters of Genesis as history—resulting in all manner of compromise intended to force geological ages and organic evolution into the Scriptures.”

### Some believe in evolution

For the purpose of the Bible study, I wanted to acknowledge four categories of people. You will notice that people in the first two categories both believe in evolution.

■ Many people believe in evolution—with little or no regard for the Bible.

■ Some people believe in evolution—but believe that Genesis 1-11 is wonderful stories.

People in these two categories do not generally comprise the audience listening to my Bible study last Wednesday night or reading this article today.

### Two versions of creation

But I have religious friends who fall into the next two categories. You will notice that people in the next two categories both believe in God’s creation.

■ Some people believe in creation with God creating over a period of time—in what is sometimes called an “Old Earth” scenario.

■ Some people believe in creation with God creating quickly—in what is sometimes called a “New Earth” scenario.

I think it is healthy when people who have those views politely share their differences of opinion with each other. Such discussions can be interesting, edifying and loving.

And please remember this—friends who support these perspectives both believe that Genesis is history.

### YouTube presentation

During the Bible study, I played a portion of a YouTube presentation titled *Is Genesis History?* It was produced on March 26, 2020, and moderated by Dr. Del Tackett (creator of The Truth Project).

Because the length of the video is one hour and 44 minutes, we watched only a portion of the beginning.

I encouraged the audience in the hall and the audience online to watch the rest of the video.