

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 6, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:28

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 Psalm 100:1–6

Music fest Various participants

Quick takes

1. Thank you—The congregation thanks Morris Foster and friends for organizing the Barn Dance and Chili Supper last Saturday night in Gladewater.
2. Thank you—The congregation thanks Daniel and Stephanie Hammons for conducting a wonderful fireworks show last Sunday evening on the church property. (They had also prepared a fireworks show on July 4.)
3. Thank you—The congregation thanks Dixon Cartwright for the many times he plays the piano for our congregation. Following are estimated totals of his musical service in 2023.
 - Hymns at church service—60 × 4 selections = 240
 - Special music at church—60 × 1 selection = 60
 - Music at 2:00 study—48 × 2 selections = 96
 - Wednesday-night study—46 × 2 selections = 92
 - Conservative estimate = 488 selections
4. Wednesday-night Bible study—Jan. 10 at 7:00.

5. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.
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| ■ Mickey Ashcraft | ■ Annette Payne |
| ■ Judy Biggs | ■ Ruth Roe |
| ■ Becky Bonilla | ■ Ronnie Shirley |
| ■ Angela Dunnam | ■ Elaine Townsend |
| ■ Timberly Dunnam | ■ Mickey Voyce |
| ■ Vi Lehman | ■ Donna Weese |
6. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Dennis Prager: Corporate Media Fear PragerU Videos” by Alana Mastrangelo.
7. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Positive Energy—Part 1” by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—168 headlines and four articles.

Prayer updates

Gary Wilson reported that he had a good week. He is planning to attend the presentations today at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00.

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Benny West** (son of **Shirley West** and brother of **Stan**) was dealing with pain and swelling on the left side of his stomach. The family reported: “Benny is going to first have a hernia repaired, and then he will have procedures to deal with kidney stones and a bladder blockage.” The family thanks you for your prayers.

New prayer requests

Daniel and **Stephanie Hammons** request prayers as they deal with a variety of housing issues—with both their previous house in Tennessee and their present home in Texas. Their challenges with their previous home are dealing generally with the home in preparing it for sale and specifically with damage done by squirrels while the house was vacant. Their challenges with their current home have to do with water and electrical problems. They appreciate your support.

Thoughts for the week

“Jesus promised His disciples three things—that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble.”—*Gilbert K. Chesterton*

“The problem of disbelieving in God is not that a man ends up believing nothing. Alas, it is much worse. He ends up believing anything.”—*Gilbert K. Chesterton*

“Dennis Prager: Corporate Media Fear PragerU Videos”

This article was posted at the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com) for the weekend of Jan. 6, 2024.

By Alana Mastrangelo

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—PragerU founder Dennis Prager told Breitbart News Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow that the corporate media fear that “one five-minute PragerU video will undo all the leftism” taught in years of public school.

“Since Tennessee, Oklahoma, New Hampshire, Florida, and Texas have considered allowing teachers to use PragerU videos, every major media outlet in the United States—NPR, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*—have just attacked us,” Prager told Marlow at Turning Point USA’s America-First conference in Phoenix, Ariz.

“Our videos are five minutes. They fear that one five-minute PragerU video will undo all the leftism of eight years of elementary school and four years of high school,” Prager added.

The PragerU founder went on to say that the corporate media also fear that, if conservative speakers “show up for 90 minutes on a college campus, we will undo four years of their left-wing indoctrination.”

“They’re right,” he added. “It’s a legitimate fear. It is like the fear of a ship: one hole can sink a battleship.”

Elsewhere in the interview, Marlow noted that one of the criticisms leveled against PragerU “is that you only provide one perspective in the videos,” which Marlow said he

did not accept as a premise, given that the corporate media and institutions of higher learning also only offer one perspective.

“It’s so ironic coming from NBC News, which, of course, offers only one perspective,” Marlow said, adding that “the American university system” also offers one perspective, pointing to an economics course he took while in college.

“The whole course was a simple Keynesian model,” Marlow said. “There was no Adam Smith, there was no Thomas Sowell, there was no Milton Friedman. It was just Keynesian economics, that’s it, taken as gospel. It was just one perspective.”

Prager reacted by saying, “I don’t know if 1 percent of American liberals heard of Thomas Sowell.”

“The man is one of the giants of 20-21st century thought, and they don’t even know who he is,” he added. “We know all their ‘giants,’ but they don’t know one of ours. And the fact that he’s black makes him even more undesirable to be known.”

Marlow responded by telling Prager, “On your recommendation, I consistently still read *The New York Times*, and this is one of the things that I know you do to keep sharp. We do this on the right.”

Prager said: “We know what they know. They don’t know what we know. We read what they read. They don’t read what we read.”

“Positive Energy—Part 1”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 6, 2024.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a short series about positive energy. At this time, I am uncertain about how many sessions that I will include in this series.

But this was certainly part one.

Some basic premises

I began the discussion by listing five basic premises—without taking the time to turn to any scriptures.

- We are born with positive energy.
- We are immediately receptive to negative energy.
- There are factors that cause our energy level to be more positive or to be more negative.
- It is important to recognize how dangerous negative energy is to a person.
- It is important to understand how to grow and to maintain positive energy.

Three sources of positive energy

At that point in the study, I mentioned that I was going to discuss three sources of positive energy.

They were: the breath of life, the spirit of man and the Spirit of God.

Breath of life

Here are a few of the verses that I read about the breath of life.

Genesis 2:7—“The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

Job 33:4—[Elihu said] “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

Psalms 146:3-4—“Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help. His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish.”

At this time, I would like to mention that many atheists and some religious people will quote Genesis 2:7 to support their conclusion that abortion is not a sin—because they say that a baby does not have life until he breathes the breath of life.

First, I would like to point out three verses that indicate God’s involvement with the life of a child in the woman’s womb.

- Psalm 139:13
- Jeremiah 1:4-5
- Luke 1:41

Second, I would like to compare two scientific views on the subject.

■ It is true that some scientists say: “Babies don’t truly breathe in the womb. Instead, the umbilical cord provides the baby with oxygen until the first breath after birth.”

■ Yet other scientists say: “Fetal breathing is readily detectable as early as 10 weeks’

gestation. Fetal breathing occurs for 10 percent to 20 percent of the time at 24 to 28 weeks’ gestation, increasing to 30 percent to 40 percent after 30 weeks’ gestation.”

The spirit in man

■ Genesis 2:20—After God created Adam, He acknowledged that the man had superior traits to cattle, birds of the air and every beast of the field.

■ 1 Corinthians 2:11—The apostle Paul noted that a person knows the things of a man by the spirit of man in him.

The Spirit of God

■ Romans 8:16—The apostle Paul wrote that the Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit.

■ 1 Corinthians 2:11—The apostle Paul wrote that no one knows the things of God, except the Spirit of God dwells in him.

■ 1 Corinthians 2:12—The very next verse mentioned that the spirit of the world is different from the Spirit that comes from God.

The Spirit of God should be flowing.

■ John 3:8—The Son of God described the Spirit of God like wind blowing.

■ John 7:37-38—The Son of God described the Spirit of God like water flowing.

Have you ever seen a small pool of water dry up because no water was flowing into it?

Have you ever seen a small pool of water stagnate because no water was flowing out of it?

■ Positive energy must be flowing in from God.

■ Positive energy must be flowing out to others.

Questions to consider

■ What kind of energy is flowing into your life?

Recognize the negative energy coming toward you.

Recognize the positive energy coming toward you.

■ What kind of energy is flowing out from you toward other people?

Recognize the negative energy that you are sending toward other people.

Recognize the positive energy that you are sending toward other people.