

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 11, 2020 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:28

Bible study and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Dave Havir
Bible study (2:00) Neil Mclver

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil Mclver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Psalm 31:1–24
Sermon Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Prayers for peaceful protesters—Please pray for the citizens who are mature and responsibly exercising their right of peaceful protest.
2. Prayers for the victims—Please pray for the citizens who are suffering from the criminals, mobs and thugs who are tormenting our country.
3. Governor's exception—On Friday, the governor of Texas gave guidelines for citizens to wear masks because of his view of the coronavirus. One of his exceptions was that citizens are not required to wear masks while in church.
4. Supporting your freedom of choice—We understand that some of you may hesitate to come to the building for church at this time, and we certainly support your freedom of choice.
 - Please be comfortable with your decision.
 - Please consider the protective opinion of your family.
5. Reminders for attending—Here are some reminders for people who choose to attend the church service in the building.
 - We do not provide masks or gloves. If these are important to you, please bring your own.
 - We expect attendees to make good use of our spacious hall by spreading out.

6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "July 4 Is Special for a Man Who Overcame Discrimination" by Allen West.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "A Miracle and National Rights" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 42 pages.

Prayer updates

Please remember to pray for the following people who live at home but are not able to regularly attend our church service—**Sonny Rosenberger, Laura Moran, Annette Payne, Ronnie Shirley** and **Timberly Dunnam**.

Please remember to pray for the following people who are rehabbing at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater—**Ron Feaker** and **Elaine Holloway**.

Jean Benedict gave the following report about her husband, **Eli**: "The swelling in his legs has decreased a little more. His legs still itch. His blood pressure was up a little this week. He took a little medication for that. He slept pretty good on Thursday night. Please pray that he can have an increase of energy."

Please remember **Sonny Rosenberger**, who regularly deals with some breathing challenges.

On Thursday, **Ronnie Shirley** finished his 28th radiation and chemo treatment. When he has future doctor appointments, he will let us know what the next steps will be.

Please remember **Lisa Smith** as she deals with health challenges.

Please remember **Annette Payne** as she continues to recover from a procedure to deal with the diagnosis of her "brain bleed." Her children are helping in her recovery.

Please remember **Jerry Jones** of Ojai, Calif., as he considers his options after being diagnosed with lymphoma.

New prayer requests

On Wednesday, **Laura Moran** began suddenly experiencing great pain in her abdomen. She considered going to an ER, but she experienced relief after a number of people prayed for her.

Last Saturday, **Melodee Eishen** went to the hospital with intense pain. She was told that her appendix had burst—it was removed. On Tuesday, Mrs. Eishen was able to return home.

On Tuesday, **Ray Johnson** of Yountville, Calif., tripped and broke his right femur.

On Thursday, **Vonda Ouellette** of Houston went to the eye doctor for a treatment. When she returned home, she dealt with some complications. She appreciates your prayers.

Dave McLearn (son-in-law of **Vonda Ouellette** who was baptized here and attends here when he is not traveling with his wife, **Theresa**, to other parts of Texas) recently began experiencing sinus problems. A CT scan revealed multiple sinus cavities filled. He was diagnosed with sinusitis and nasal septum. He had surgery on Friday, June 26. He was able to be released on Sunday, June 28. He had a doctor appointment on Thursday, July 2 (which he described as extremely painful). He reports that he is doing better, even though sinus headaches still come and go.

Phillip Rice of Baton Rouge, La., died on June 28. Please remember his family in your prayers.

Eye on the world

■ An article by Zen Soo titled “Hong Kong Police Granted Sweeping Powers Under Security Law” was posted at [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) on July 5, 2020.

■ An article by Jamie Tarabay titled “Arrested Under New Law, Hong Kong Protesters Get Swabbed for DNA” was posted at [bloomberg.com](https://www.bloomberg.com) on July 6, 2020.

■ An article titled “Australia Offers Safe Haven to Hong Kongers, Sparking China Fury” was posted at [afp.com](https://www.afp.com) on July 9, 2020.

■ An article by Amber Wang titled “‘We’re Next’: Hong Kong Security Law Sends Chills Through Taiwan” was posted at [afp.com](https://www.afp.com) on July 7, 2020.

■ An article by Tucker Higgins titled “Supreme Court Says Eastern Half of Oklahoma Is Native American Land” was posted at [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) on July 9, 2020.

■ An article by John Melton titled “Colorado AG Serves Cease and Desist Order to Andrew Wommack Event [Right in the Middle of Their Weeklong ‘Family Bible Conference’]” was posted at [stream.org](https://www.stream.org) on July 8, 2020.

Scriptures to consider

Acts 10:34-35—“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.’”

Revelation 14:6-7—“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’”

Word tickler

Some people would consider the following quote to be an oxymoron. But we like to call it a word tickler—“Why do ‘fat chance’ and ‘slim chance’ mean the same thing?”

A Miracle and National Rights

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 July 11, 2020.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—In last week’s article, I talked about “International and National Worldviews.” At the end of the article, I used a subhead titled “Paul and his rights” and mentioned two sections of verses in the book of Acts.

In this article, I want to show how the apostle Paul was delivered from trouble by a miracle and his national rights. The historical account is found in Acts 16.

The trial

■ Acts 16:12—The apostle Paul went to the town of Philippi.

■ Acts 16:16-18—Paul cast a spirit of divination out of a slave girl who brought her masters much profit through her divination.

■ Acts 16:19—Her masters became upset when they saw that their hope of profit was gone, and they dragged Paul and Silas to the authorities in the marketplace.

■ Acts 16:20-21—The masters accused Paul and Silas before the magistrates.

■ Acts 16:22-24—The mob rose up against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates commanded that the two men be beaten with rods and thrown into prison (into the inner prison with their feet fastened in the stocks).

The miracle

■ Acts 16:25-26—While Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns, a great earthquake opened the doors of the prison and loosened the chains of the prisoners.

■ Acts 16:27—The keeper of the prison assumed that the prisoners had escaped and was going to kill himself.

■ Acts 16:28—Paul comforted the keeper of the prison.

■ Acts 16:29-34—Paul baptized the keeper of the prison and his family.

His national rights

■ Acts 16:35—In the morning, the magistrates sent officers to the keeper of the prison

with the message to release Paul and Silas.

■ Acts 16:36—The keeper of the prison relayed the message to Paul and Silas.

■ Acts 16:37—When Paul heard the message, he wanted the magistrates to come and to treat Paul and Silas with respect.

■ Acts 16:38—When the magistrates heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were concerned.

■ Acts 16:39—When the magistrates went to see Paul and Silas, they treated Paul and Silas with respect and asked them to leave the city.

Notice how Paul was aware of his rights and utilized his rights to navigate through this specific incident.

Acts 16:37-38—“But Paul said to them, ‘They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out.’ And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans.”

A later episode

Notice how Paul was aware of his rights and utilized his rights to navigate through a later episode.

Acts 22:25-29—“And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, ‘Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?’ When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, ‘Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman.’ Then the commander came and said to him, ‘Tell me, are you a Roman?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ The commander answered, ‘With a large sum I obtained this citizenship.’ And Paul said, ‘But I was born a citizen.’ Then immediately those who were about to examine him withdrew from him; and the commander was also afraid after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.”