

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Oct. 31, 2020 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:30

### Bible study and classes

Interactive study (1:00) . . . . . Dave Havir

Bible study (2:00) . . . . . Dave Havir

### Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader . . . . . Reg Killingley

Pianist . . . . . Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading . . . . . Revelation 22:1–7

Sermon . . . . . Neil McIver

### Quick takes

1. Prayers for peaceful protesters—Please pray for the citizens who are maturely and responsibly exercising their right of peaceful protest.
2. Prayers for victims—Please pray for the citizens who are suffering from the criminals, mobs and thugs who are tormenting our country.
3. Food and movie today—Today, Neil McIver is scheduled to give the sermon during the church service. He has scheduled a related movie (which supplements his presentation) to begin at 5:00. As a service to those who plan to stay, the McIvers are planning to serve “brisket street tacos” after church and before the movie.
  - 4:00 p.m. Brisket street tacos
  - 5:00 Movie—*I Can Only Imagine*
4. Daylight-saving time ends tomorrow morning—This is a reminder that daylight-saving time ends on Nov. 1, 2020.
5. Upcoming guest speakers—Dave Havir is pleased to announce that several guest speakers are planning to join us over the coming weeks. The tentative list includes the following: Wynn Skelton (Nov. 5), Morris Foster (Nov. 21), Jim Johns (Dec. 5), Blake Silverstein (Dec. 12) and Bill Crow (Dec. 19).

6. 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.
7. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Liberal Journalist Resigns Due to Censorship” by Glenn Greenwald.
8. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Paul Had Rights During Roman Occupation” by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 30 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**.

**Eli Benedict** continues to deal with itching and some difficulty sleeping.

On Thursday, **Annette Payne** (who had received a diagnosis of cancer in her lung and in one lymph node) had her appointment for a biopsy. Confirmation is expected in three to five days. Mrs. Payne is hoping to be at church today. (She hopes to come once a month for the fellowship.)

**Jerry Jones** of Ojai, Calif., who was diagnosed with lymphoma, appreciates your prayers for his improved energy level.

In the last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Jean Rogers** of Denton (who with her husband, **Jimmy**, is a part of our extended congregation) had back surgery on the previous Tuesday and that the doctor delayed her release from the hospital. We learned that her release finally came last Wednesday—due to a hernia in her esophagus. The Rogerses appreciate your continued prayers. (Her husband reports that the cancer of his liver is in remission.)

On Monday, **Marcus Franklin** of Arlington (nephew-in-law of **Shirley Spearman**) was able to go home.

On Thursday, **Terry Weese** of Longview (son of **Donna Weese**) went home from the hospital. (He had been there for 12 days.) He is taking oxygen at home.

In the Oct. 17 bulletin, we mentioned that **Brad Ellis** of Kailua Kona, Hawaii (who is diabetic), had surgery to insert a stent in a leg vein to increase blood flow to his foot. Since then, Mr. Ellis had surgery on his foot, with the surgery removing the front half of his foot. Mr. Ellis and his wife, **Sherry**, view this as a blessing because they were concerned he might lose his leg below the knee.

## New prayer requests

In the April 25 bulletin, we mentioned that **Shakyra Johnson** of Grand Rapids, Mich. (wife of **Montrail Johnson** and daughter-in-law of **Veronica Miles**), was in the hospital with heart challenges (at age 23) and was diagnosed with pneumonia. At the time, we mentioned that her name was placed on a waiting list for a heart transplant. In the May 2 bulletin, we mentioned that she was taken off a ventilator and was able to go home. We hadn't received any updates until this week. On Wednesday, we learned that she was scheduled for a heart transplant on that day. (On Thursday morning, Mrs. Miles texted: "Shakyra is out of [heart-transplant] surgery. They will wake her in a little while.") Some of us were able to pray while she was in surgery. Now the rest of us can pray for her recovery from the surgery.

On Monday, **Don Day** of Marshalltown, Iowa (stepfather of **David Coleman**), went to the Mayo Clinic due to breathing issues. He was diagnosed with covid-19. He has various health issues to complicate the situation. (On May 23, we mentioned that he visited the clinic on May 20.)

**Dael Baughman** of the local United congregation has been diagnosed with double pneumonia.

**Jerry Gentry** of Kalispell, Mont., died on Oct. 14. Please remember the family in your prayers.

**Earnest McElhaney** of Muskogee, Okla., died on Oct. 28. Please remember the family in your prayers.

## "Paul Had Rights During Roman Occupation"

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 Oct. 31, 2020.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Members of the Church of God are wondering how the upcoming United States election on Nov. 3 will affect world events. Members of the Church of God who are citizens of the United States are wondering how the upcoming election will affect the practical day-to-day living within the United States.

### Frame of reference

At this time, I want to make four statements about my worldview.

- I understand that the founding documents of the United States do not have superiority over the Bible or the Kingdom of God.
- I appreciate the founding documents

of the United States—which have provided rights and freedoms not known by much of the world. (Those documents have needed to be amended over time to serve various needs of the populace.)

■ I personally do not want to see the United States adopt the ideologies of communism, Marxism or socialism.

■ Understanding Bible history about the apostle Paul having rights during Roman occupation can help Bible students to appreciate the rights and freedoms that they presently have.

### Pitted against Caesar

The apostle Paul lived in the time of Roman occupation.

■ Acts 11:28—In the days of Claudius Caesar.

■ Acts 17:6-7—The mob accused Jason and others of acting contrary to Caesar.

■ Acts 17:10—The brethren sent Paul and Silas away from Thessalonica.

### Dealing with magistrates and soldiers

Paul had to deal with magistrates, centurions and soldiers.

■ Acts 16:20-24—The magistrates commanded that Paul and Silas be beaten with rods and that they be thrown into prison.

■ Acts 21:30—The mob dragged Paul out of the temple.

■ Acts 21:31-34—A commander took soldiers and centurions to rescue Paul from a beating.

■ Acts 23:16-24—When a commander learned of the Jewish plot to assassinate Paul, he instructed two centurions to provide protection—200 soldiers, 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen.

### Appealed unto Caesar

Paul made a decision to appeal to the judicial courts of Caesar.

■ Acts 25:8—Paul proclaimed that he had not sinned against the law of the Jews, against the temple or against Caesar.

■ Acts 25:9—Festus asked Paul if he wanted to be judged in Jerusalem.

■ Acts 25:10-11—Paul said that he stood at “Caesar’s judgment seat” and that he appealed to Caesar.

■ Acts 26:32—After Agrippa heard Paul’s story, he told Festus that Paul might have become free if he hadn’t appealed to Caesar.

■ Acts 27:1—Julius (a centurion of the Augustan Regiment) was chosen to take Paul and other prisoners to Italy.

■ Acts 27:24—An angel told Paul that he would be brought before Caesar.

■ Acts 28:16-19—When Paul arrived at Rome, he called the Jewish leaders together and told them how he appealed to Caesar.

### Using his rights to gain freedom

Paul skillfully used his citizenship and his rights on three occasions.

During the first two times, he used his

national rights to gain his freedom.

**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.”

**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.”

### Using his rights to preach the gospel

During the third incident, he used his citizenship and his national rights to preach the gospel in Rome.

**Acts 23:11**—“But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, ‘Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.’”

**Acts 25:8-11**—“. . . He [Paul] answered for himself, ‘Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all.’ But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, ‘Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things?’ So Paul said, ‘I stand at Caesar’s judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar.’”