

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 13, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:08

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havar
Presentation study—2:00 Neil Mclver
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil Mclver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Luke 24:36–43
Sermon Morris Foster

Quick takes

1. Board nomination process continues today—The nomination portion of the board selection occurs in May, and the election occurs in June.
2. Wednesday-night Bible study this week—May 17
3. Big Sandy FFA banquet in building on May 16—The Big Sandy High School FFA banquet is scheduled in our building on Tuesday evening, May 16.
4. Big Sandy athletic banquet in building on May 18—The Big Sandy athletic banquet is scheduled in our building on Thursday evening, May 18.
5. Tentative schedule for memorial services—Following is the tentative schedule for three members of our congregation who recently died.
 - Elaine Holloway Saturday, June 3, at noon
 - Ron Avey Sunday, July 2, at 10:00 a.m.
 - David Bonilla Sunday, Aug. 20, at 1:00 p.m.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Largest Religions in the World" by Don Vaughan.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "John 16" by Dave Havar.

8. **Eye on the World**—The version of this week’s “Eye on the World” that is distributed in the hall is 36 pages. (The number of pages on the website varies slightly due to a different layout program.) This edition has 275 headlines and four articles.

Prayer reminders

Angela Dunnam has been diagnosed with stage-one cancer.

Timberley Dunnam has a variety of long-term health challenges.

Gary Wilson is scheduled for stem-cell treatment in Chicago on June 27.

Martha Mclver has been slowly recovering from pneumonia.

Dave McLearen is dealing with extreme back pain.

Mickey Voyce recently had an unspecified surgery.

Margaret Pitre of Ville Platte, La., has been diagnosed with diverticulitis.

Nolan Pitre of Ville Platte, La., has been diagnosed with blockage around his heart.

Sara Dunn (daughter of the **Colemans**) has an injured arm.

Vaughn Duke of Hawkins is dealing with a diagnosis of cancer on his back.

Cindy Martin of Lindale is dealing with treatment after a diagnosis of lymphoma.

New prayer requests

Nancy Diraison has been missing church due to a fall while hiking with family. She had hurt her upper-right side (including her shoulder, rib cage and arm).

“The Largest Religions in the World”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of May 13, 2023. (It can also be found at britannica.com.)

By **Don Vaughan**

RALEIGH, N.C.—The world’s primary religions fall into two categories: Abrahamic religions, such as Christianity, Judaism and Islam; and Indian religions, which include Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and others.

■ Christianity—more than 2 billion followers

Christianity is based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and is approximately 2,000 years old. Its largest groups are the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox churches, and the Protestant churches, and its sa-

cred text is the Bible. Over the centuries, Christianity grew in numbers as it spread around the world, often through missionaries and colonizers.

■ Islam—an estimated 1.8 billion followers

Islam started in Mecca (a city in modern-day Saudi Arabia) in the 7th century C.E. and was spread by the Prophet Muhammad (570-632 C.E.), who followers of Islam believe to be God’s ultimate prophet. Islam states that the teachings of God, who is known as Allah, were written down in a holy book known as the Koran, which is

the faith's spiritual text. Most Muslims belong to one of the two major branches of Islam: Sunnis include approximately 80 percent of Muslims, and the Shiah includes approximately 15 percent. The remaining numbers belong to smaller denominations.

■ **Hinduism**—an estimated 1.1 billion followers

Hinduism is one of the oldest religions, with beliefs and practices that date back at least as far as the 1500s B.C.E. Hinduism is practiced primarily in India (where approximately 80 percent of the population identifies as Hindu), Nepal and Indonesia. Little is known about the founding of Hinduism, but its teachings deeply influence almost all aspects of believers' lives. In recent years certain aspects of Hinduism have become popular in the West, such as the practice of yoga, as well as the use of chakras (energy points found throughout the body) to identify and treat illness.

■ **Buddhism**—approximately 500 million followers

Buddhism has more than 250 million in China alone. Based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha, the religion was founded in India nearly 2,500 years ago. There are two main branches of Buddhism: Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism. Tenets of Buddhism include a vow of nonviolence and an adherence to ethical behavior in all aspects of life.

■ **Shinto**—104 million followers

Formally established in Japan in the 8th century C.E., Shinto promotes the existence of many gods. It is not an organized religion in the traditional sense, but it serves as the foundation of many cultural practices in Japan.

■ **Sikhism**—25 million followers

Relatively new compared with many other faiths, Sikhism was founded in India in the 1500s C.E. and is based on the teachings of Guru Nanak and his nine successors.

■ **Judaism**—14 million followers

This monotheistic religion was established in the Middle East about the 8th century B.C.E. and today comprises three primary branches: Orthodox Judaism, Conservative Judaism and Reform Judaism. Though based on a common belief system, the branches differ in their interpretation of Scripture and certain religious practices.

■ **Daoism**—12 million followers

Originating in China more than 2,000 years ago, Daoism (also known as Taoism) centers on living in harmony with the spontaneous fluctuations of the natural order. Among its first philosophers was a man named Laozi, who is believed to have written the faith's primary text, the Daodejing.

■ **Muism**—10 million followers

One of the world's oldest religions, this faith is closely associated with traditional Korean culture and history and is also known as Korean Shamanism. Muism's followers claim a strong belief in the spirit world.

■ **Cao Dai**—4.4 million followers

Originating in Vietnam in 1926, Cao Dai was established by Ngo Van Chieu, who claimed to have received a message from a god figure known as the Supreme Being during a séance. The religion incorporates elements of many other faiths, including Christianity, Judaism and Daoism, and promotes love, peace and tolerance.

Thoughts about mothers

"Life began with waking up and loving my mother's face."

"A mother understands what a child does not say."

"A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go."

Thought with a twist

When older people say, "Enjoy them while they are young," they are not talking about their kids--but rather they are talking about their knees and hips.

“John 16”

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 May 13, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I discussed John 16. Following are some of the scriptures that were discussed.

Warning in advance

■ John 16:1—The Son of God gave them information, so that they would not stumble.

■ John 16:2—He mentioned two serious situations awaiting them (being put out of the synagogue and being killed) in the name of serving God.

Notice how Matthew, Mark and Luke described what was going to happen to the Son of God.

■ Matthew 16:21—The Son of God informed the disciples that He would suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and scribes—before His death and resurrection.

■ Mark 10:33-34—The Son of God informed the disciples that He would be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes, condemned to death and delivered to the gentiles—to be mocked, scourged and spat upon (before His death and resurrection).

■ Luke 9:21-22—The Son of God told His disciples not to prematurely tell anyone what was going to happen to Him—rejected by the elders, chief priests and scribes (before His death and resurrection).

Disciples were sad

■ John 16:5-6—As the Son of God told them about the next coming days, sorrow filled their heart.

Comforter pronoun

■ John 16:7—The Son of God mentioned the “Comforter” with the various personal pronouns.

(In recent articles, I mentioned that personal pronouns are also used in John 14:16, John 14:26 and John 15:26. I apologize for not mentioning John 16:8 and John 16:13-15.)

There are many examples of the “per-

sonification” of the Spirit.

My favorite examples are found when the Son of God said that the Spirit “speaks” to the seven congregations in Revelation 2 and 3.

Power from God

Notice verses about power from God.

■ Acts 2:33—The Father promised the Holy Spirit, and He poured it out.

■ 2 Corinthians 1:21-22—God sealed disciples by giving the Spirit in their hearts.

■ Ephesians 1:13-14—God sealed disciples with the Holy Spirit of promise.

■ 1 Thessalonians 4:8—People reject God, who has given His Holy Spirit.

■ 2 Timothy 1:6-7—God has given a spirit of power, love and a sound mind.

Various reminders

■ John 16:7-9—The Son of God reminded His disciples that God will judge the world of sin, righteousness and judgment.

■ John 16:16-19—The Son of God reminded His disciples that He was going to His Father.

■ John 16:20-22—The Son of God used the example of childbirth to remind His disciples that sorrow often precedes rejoicing.

Whatever you ask?

■ John 16:23-24—“Whatever you ask the Father” and He will give you.

■ James 4:2-3—Some people don’t receive because they don’t ask, and other people don’t receive because they “ask amiss.”

Plain language

■ John 16:25-30—When the Son of God told them plainly about the Father, they believed that He came from God.

■ John 16:31-32—The Son of God told them that they would scatter and leave Him alone—but the Father would be with Him.

■ John 16:33—The Son of God wanted them to have peace in the face of tribulation—reminding them that He overcame the world.