

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug, 10, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:09

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Daniel Hammons
Presentation study—2:00 Daniel Hammons
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Acts 7:38–43
Sermon Neil McIver

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havar is giving a sermon in Jackson, Miss. (Since this trip developed spontaneously on Wednesday, Mr. Havar thanks Daniel Hammons for taking his place at the 1:00 and 2:00 presentations today.)
2. Isabel McIver has arrived—Andrew and Anna McIver are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter (Isabel McIver) on Thursday around noon. (She weighed 7 pounds 1 ounce and was 19.5 inches long.) The parents and the rest of the family thank the congregation for all the love and prayers expressed on their behalf.
3. Every Wednesday—Bible study at 7:00 p.m.
4. Dominoes on Sunday—For those interested, there will be dominoes in the building at 11:00 a.m.
5. Board meeting on Sunday—There is a board meeting in the building on Sunday, Aug. 11, at 4:00 p.m.
6. Community grief support—Aug. 12 and Aug. 26 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Heritage Center in Big Sandy.

7. State Rep. Cole Hefner—Aug, 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Heritage Center.
8. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Oct. 7 Documentary Tells Stories of Heroes and Victims" by Gadi Zaig.
9. Among Friends—This week's article is "Book of Revelation—Part 6" by Dave Havir.
10. Eye on the World—This week's edition was not completed at the printing deadline of this bulletin.
11. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

■ Mickey Ashcraft	■ Ronnie Shirley
■ Judy Biggs	■ Elaine Townsend
■ Angela Dunnam	■ Mickey Voyce
■ Timberly Dunnam	■ Donna Weese
■ Ruth Roe	

Prayer updates

Melodee Eishen reported: "I was able to visit Houston to see grandchildren. That was nice. Thank you for your continued prayers and support."

On Wednesday, **Anthony Kimmons** (of Brookhaven, Miss.) sent the following update about his wife, **Pam**: "We got biopsy results today. The cancer diagnosis was confirmed—pancreatic cancer estimated at stage 3. Pam is considering her options. The next step will be a PET scan to determine how far it may have spread. We appreciate your prayers."

In the July 20 bulletin, we mentioned that **Brittany Bridgeford** (28-year-old in the Kansas City area) had a stroke during the early-morning hours of July 13. Following is an update: "Brittany is cognizant and doing well. She has to learn how use her right side all over again and can say only three things right now (yes, no and love you). Please continue to remember her in your prayers."

New prayer requests

Following is a prayer request sent last Saturday morning from **Brenda Kennebeck** concerning her son **Zach**: "Zachary has been having some heart issues. He is scheduled for a heart catheterization this Friday [Aug. 9] at UT. He has some shadowing on the bottom chamber of his heart. The doctor is not sure if it is some sort of blockage. That chamber is not pumping the blood as it should. Hopefully, we will get some answers on Friday to what is going on." (Since **Dave Havir** left on a church visit yesterday morning, this bulletin did not report the results of the catheterization.)

Natalie Mackey of Tulsa, Okla., died on Aug. 2. Please remember her husband, **Keith**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

Jeremiah 23:1-2—“ ‘Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!’ says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: ‘You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,’ says the LORD.”

Luke 23:28—“But Jesus, turning to them, said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.’ ”

“Book of Revelation—Part 6”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Aug. 10, 2024.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a nine-part series about the book of Revelation. Part 6 was about “The First Angel of Revelation 14.”

Before launching into a discussion about the first angel of Revelation 14, I briefly mentioned the six angels listed in that chapter.

■ Revelation 14:6-7—The first angel preaches the gospel to everyone who dwells on the earth.

■ Revelation 14:8—The second angel announces the fall of Babylon.

■ Revelation 14:9-11—The third angel warns about the beast and the mark of the beast.

■ Revelation 14:15-16—Another angel called out to Him who sat on the cloud to use His sickle to reap a harvest on the earth.

■ Revelation 14:17—Another angel also had a sharp sickle.

■ Revelation 14:18-20—Another angel came out to him who had the sharp sickle to thrust it into the earth.

After pointing out those scriptures, I focused on the first angel.

To the whole world

■ Revelation 14:6—This angel preaches the gospel to all those who dwell on the earth.

To every nation.

To every tribe.

To every language.

To all people.

Misapplying Matthew 24:14

Many religious organizations misapply Matthew 24:14.

■ Matthew 24:14—“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

What a beautiful verse. The gospel will be preached in all the world.

But be careful about individuals who boast that they personally will fulfill that verse. (Doesn’t such boasting by a human leader strike you as misguided and rather pompous? Please don’t allow human leaders to divert you from the Father and the Son.)

Someone could ask me: Are you against individuals and religious groups seeking to preach the gospel?

My answer: Absolutely not. But I am concerned about people who make pompous claims about themselves that should embarrass them and can actually hinder the wonderful gospel message of the Bible.

The gospel message is about the Father, the Son and the Kingdom.

■ The gospel message is not centered around famous people.

■ And the gospel message is not restricted to be given by famous people—even famous people like the pope, Billy Graham,

James Dobson, Jonathan Cahn and others.

Actually, you can preach the gospel by your words—and more importantly by your actions.

I encourage you to preach the gospel—as a witness.

What is a witness?

The Greek word *witness* in Matthew 24:14 comes from the Greek word *martyri-on*—which is a noun, meaning “testimony” and “proof.” It is translated as “testimony” 15 times and “witness” four times in the King James Version of the Bible.

(For the record, there are several other variations of that Greek word—two other variations that are also nouns and two variations that are verbs.)

Let’s look at a few scriptures when those Greek words are used about someone being a witness.

■ Acts 1:22—The replacement of Judas was expected to be a witness of the resurrection of the Son of God.

■ Acts 4:33—The apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

■ 1 Peter 5:1—Peter acknowledged that he was a witness of the sufferings of Christ.

Let’s consider how disciples gave a testimony.

■ Acts 23:11—Paul was given the opportunity to bear witness in Rome.

■ Romans 10:15—Every disciple has the opportunity to verbally share the gospel of peace and glad tidings of good things.

■ 1 Peter 2:11-12—More importantly, every disciple has the opportunity to reflect honorable conduct—which can glorify God now and during the day of visitation.

■ Revelation 6:9—Some people will be slain for the Word of God and for the testimony that they held.

■ Revelation 12:11—People will overcome the accuser of the brethren by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

■ Revelation 11:3-11—After the “two wit-

nesses” give their testimony, they will be killed.

Let’s have a little fun

Although I regularly spend my teaching time focusing upon principles of Christian living, let’s waste a little time speculating about the identity of the two witnesses.

(For the record, I don’t care who the “two witnesses” are.)

Theory No. 1 is Enoch and Elijah—because their deaths were not recorded.

■ Enoch—Genesis 5:24 and Hebrews 11:5

■ Elijah—2 Kings 2:11 and Malachi 4:5-6

Theory No. 2 is Moses and Elijah—because they were both associated with fire from heaven and with stopping the water—which is mentioned in association with the two witnesses (Revelation 14:5-6).

■ Moses—Exodus 9:23-24; Exodus 7:20-21; and Exodus 14:21-26

■ Elijah—2 Kings 1:10-14 and 1 Kings 17:1

Message to whole world

Let’s go back to Revelation 14 and conclude with the actual message that the first angel will successfully present to the whole world.

I recommend that you analyze the message in the following ways.

Is Revelation 14:7 the message that motivates your daily behavior?

Is Revelation 14:7 the message that your words and actions reflect to other people? We can certainly do our little part.

But the Father and Son have a very effective way to preach the gospel to the entire world.

■ Revelation 14:7—“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.”

Thought for the week

“Time flies like an arrow.
Fruit flies like a banana.”—*Groucho Marx*