

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 25, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:45

### 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 . . . . . 2 Corinthians 1:3–10  
Sermon . . . . . Daniel Hammons

### Quick takes

1. Dominoes tomorrow—There will be dominoes tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.
2. Wednesday-night Bible study—Jan. 29 at 7:00. (We are pleased to have Wynn Skelton continue with his series about angels.)
3. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Inauguration and King's Historic Speech" by Star Parker.
4. Among Friends—This week's article is "Trust the Lord—Psalm 37" by Dave Havir.
5. Eye on the World—Six articles and 159 headlines.
6. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

- Mickey Ashcraft
- Judy Biggs
- Angela Dunnam
- Timberly Dunnam
- Ruth Roe

- Ronnie Shirley
- Elaine Townsend
- Mickey Voyce
- Donna Weese

## Prayer updates

**Shirley West** reports that she continues to be weak. While she appreciates visitors, she certainly values your prayers.

**Gloria Hoppe** reports that she continued to make progress—even though she is still weak and shaky. She greatly appreciates your prayers.

**Bea Gusner** reports that her packing is exhausting but going well. She has been busy shredding old documents, finding a home for items that are not traveling with her and packing items to go to North Carolina. Neighbors and a few members of the congregation have been able to help her. Her son is scheduled to arrive tonight to help. She is scheduled to be with us this Saturday and next Saturday. She appreciates your prayers.

**Shirley Spearman** reports that her blood pressure was high again this week. (Having to deal with a water leak this week didn't help.)

## New prayer requests

On Jan. 17, **Eileen Beltz** of Winston-Salem, N.C., had a colonoscopy. Her husband reported: "The physician stated he could not get past the mass in her colon with his camera device to examine that side of her large intestine. He was able to ascertain that Eileen has colitis, which she knows and has had since the age of 2. He referred to the mass as a 'tumor.' At the follow-up session on Jan. 23, the physician ordered a needle biopsy of the colon mass."

**Ralph Teele** of Cottonwood, Ariz., died on Jan. 17. Please remember his wife, **Sheila**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

## "The Inauguration and King's Historic Speech"

This article is from the "Edifying the Body" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website ([churchofgodbigandy.com](http://churchofgodbigandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 25, 2025. (A version was posted at numerous locations on Jan. 22.)

### By Star Parker

**R**ESTON, Va.—I have written often that there is a common denominator in our deeply divided nation. That is the general sense that something is wrong.

The points of departure among our large and diverse population are the perceptions about what the problems are and what must be done.

In this spirit I ask, as many have over recent days, what message we might take from the coincidence of the inauguration

day of Donald J. Trump as America's 47th president with the national holiday honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It is interesting to note that in 1964, shortly after King's famous speech at the Lincoln Memorial, and shortly after the assassination of an American president, 77 percent of Americans said, according to Pew Research, that "they trust government to do what is right just about always/most of the time." The percent expressing this sentiment in 2024 was 22 percent.

The percent expressing trust in government, per the Pew survey, spiraled relentlessly downward from 1964, and, despite ups and downs, it never again got even close to the 77 percent of 1964.

However, parallel with the spiraling down in trust in government has been a spiraling up in the growth of government.

In 1964, per the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, federal government expenditures took 17.3 percent of our GDP.

In 2024, federal government expenditures, per the Congressional Budget Office, took 23.9 percent of GDP.

Can it be an accident that the more Americans have come to rely on government, the more Americans have allowed government to take over an increasing percentage of their lives, their trust in government has dramatically fallen?

Common ground between the appeal of Donald Trump in 2025 and the appeal of King in 1963 is that both were about the pressing need to be faithful to the founding principles of the country.

Trump's MAGA message in 2025 is that the nation has destructively strayed from these principles. King's message in 1963 was that the country failed and was failing to live up to those founding principles.

However, common ground for both was and is concurrence about the validity of those founding principles—a free nation under God—and the critical importance of being true to them.

What we do know is what the Civil Rights Movement became, and what became widely understood to be the road to racial justice

in America, was a great departure from King's words and appeal in his "I Have a Dream Speech."

How can the sad irony be missed when today Al Sharpton wants to lead boycotts against corporations shaking off their DEI—diversity, equity, inclusion—programs when the most memorable line of King's 1963 speech was his dream that one day his children would be judged by the "content of their character" and not "by the color of their skin"?

A great point of inflection occurred in the 1960s, much under the leadership of President Lyndon Johnson, where the Civil Rights Movement became a platform to direct the whole nation to the new god of big government.

It has grown and grown, and here is the meeting point between MAGA and King's dream.

The false god of big government is hurting all Americans. We're all drowning in it and damaged by it.

The "I Have a Dream Speech" was really a pastor's sermon, and the National Mall became his church.

The substance of it is equally relevant, whether you see it about Making America Great Again or about Making America Great like it was meant to be.

Restoring sanctity of life, liberty, and property. Understanding that the source of our creativity is our Creator.

In King's words, "And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true."

And then we will join hands and sing "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

## "Trust the Lord — Psalm 37"

This article is from "Among Friends" of the Church of God's Big Sandy's website ([churchofgodbigsandy.com](http://churchofgodbigsandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 25, 2025.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Have you ever spent time looking up scriptures in the Bible that talk about trusting the Lord? This weekend, I want to remind you about a passage in the book of Psalms that eloquently talks about trusting the Lord.

Notice the 40 verses in Psalm 37.

*Psalm 37:1-4*—"Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight your-

self also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

**Psalm 37:5-6**—“Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noon-day.”

**Psalm 37:7-8**—“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—it only causes harm.”

**Psalm 37:9-11**—“For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”

**Psalm 37:12-15**—“The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn the sword and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, to slay those who are of upright conduct. Their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.”

**Psalm 37:16-17**—“A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, But the LORD upholds the righteous.”

**Psalm 37:18-20**—“The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. But the wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the LORD, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.”

**Psalm 37:21-22**—“But the wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the LORD, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away. The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous

shows mercy and gives.”

**Psalm 37:23-24**—“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand.”

**Psalm 37:25-26**—“I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lends; and his descendants are blessed.”

**Psalm 37:27-29**—“Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore. For the LORD loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell in it forever.”

**Psalm 37:30-31**—“The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice. The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.”

**Psalm 37:32-33**—“The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him. The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.”

**Psalm 37:34-36**—“Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a native green tree. Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.”

**Psalm 37:37-38**—“Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.”

**Psalm 37:39-40**—“But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him.”

## Thought for the week

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.”—Zig Ziglar