

HERALD OF ALCC



By God's grace, Abundant Life is here
to bring people to wholeness through God's grace.

Kathie's Korner

As the tent flap fell with a whoosh behind him, David sucked in a deep breath, quickly retrieved the staff he'd dropped as he arrived, and looked at the sky, wondering how long it would be before the Philistine giant once again made his challenge – wondered whether he'd have time to find the stones he would need to kill him...

He smiled ruefully, as he realized his heart was pounding, not in fear so much as in wild excitement. He could hardly wait to see what would happen this day! Somehow, he knew God would give him victory. How he knew it, he didn't know – but he was as certain of it as he was of his own name.

A milling crowd of idle military officials stood around as David's sandals moved swiftly over the rocky terrain toward the edge of the ravine that separated the camp of the Israelis and the Philistines. Their eyes followed him. And as word that he might be their "champion" or possibly even their "sacrifice" was whispered among them, not wanting to miss the spectacle should either result ensue, they slowly moved in his wake.

David, however, was oblivious of everything but the goal. His eyes were on

the horizon, looking for a Philistine warrior, who was even then beginning to break away from the line of hostile soldiers who could be seen in the distance lining the enemy tents.

Descending into the valley, David was forced to look down and watch his foot placement – amazed that among the rocks that could so easily cause him to stumble, were placed, perfectly sized stones for slinging at a giant... As he tucked them into his pouch, he smiled as he realized that in being forced to watch his feet, God was giving him the tools to fight his battle.

It didn't take David long to slip and slide down the side of the ravine into the valley. And it took hardly any time at all for the Giant of a man – Goliath – to realize that this youth was actually, foolishly running, not away in terror, but **toward** him as he taunted the army of Israel. For a moment he hesitated, seeming stunned, cocking his head to the side, squinting his eyes against a view that seemed incongruous with what he understood about human nature. It took but seconds, however, for his nine foot tall hulking body to resume its swagger and with curses by his gods, he spat at David, "What? Am I a dog that you come out here to

fight me with sticks? Come here, BOY! I'm going to feed your carcass to the birds!"

David was close enough finally, to take clear aim with his sling, but for the sake of those who stood by in both camps, David yelled with great strength, his voice echoing off the valley walls, "You, Goliath, come to me with armor – a sword, spear and javelin, but I'm armed with something you cannot see! I come to you in the NAME of the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, whom you have defied. He will give the victory this day so that everyone will know that there is a GOD in Israel, and He doesn't need a sword or a spear to save us."

As he yelled, over his head could be heard the *whoop, whoop, whoop* of the sling as it made its revolutions - faster, and faster, tighter and tighter until on David's last words, he released the stone resting in the pocket of his sling.

Those who described the scene afterward claimed there was a moment when Goliath blinked and jerked, and that was all the warning the bystanders had that the battle was over before he fell.

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This 'N' That - Lois Goodwill

The first thing I remember about Conni Fowler is the testimony she gave at Christian Women's Club, years ago. We had both been speakers at various C.W.C. clubs and both served several years as club president. Conni's speech borrowed its beginning from the movie *Auntie Mame*, "Life is a banquet, and most poor souls are starving to death, so LIVE, LIVE, LIVE." Well, Connie and Greg met a few bumps along the way, but right now are enjoying a banquet and the fruit of a fulfilling life.

Conni and Greg have been married thirty-seven years. They have two married sons, Brad and Alana (members at ALCC), who have 5 girls, and Ryan and Jen, who live in Connecticut and are having their second baby in September. They also have one married daughter, Erin and Scott, (also ALCC church members) who have three children, making a total of nine Fowler grandchildren, with the tenth on the way.

The history of their meeting begins at Sierra College, where a friend introduced Conni to her Christian friends. Conni was not raised in a Christian home. Her experience with church had been to go to the closest one she and her sister could walk to. Her folks rarely attended, and she knew the facts about Christmas and Easter, some Bible stories, but little else. Greg was a long time church attendee, but through a Bible study with Sue Mott, he made his personal decision to follow Christ, becoming a born again Christian. Conni had moved to Grass Valley and was also in that Bible study. In February 1973 Conni also accepted the Lord, and the next month she was introduced to Greg. Greg waited till September to ask her for a date, and thus be-

gan the rest of the story of their lives together.

When Greg was one of the Abundant Life Players, I remember my favorite skit he did was an enactment of Forest Gump saying "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get." Greg has always had some kind of leadership role in every church he has attended, but the Fowler's Christian experience was not without its bumps. And — like a bad chocolate they hit a church situation that they didn't feel they could chew. That experience caused them to quit going to church. When no one seemed to notice their absence, that gave them another excuse not to go. After several months Greg's conscience convinced him that their family needed to get back in church.

"Fine," said Conni, "you can go but I'm not going."

A friend of theirs invited Greg to go on a fishing trip with him and Pastor Sam. Greg really liked Sam and didn't find out until they got home that Sam had just recovered from his first blood clot on the brain. Greg remembered that they had been on little goat trails and in rough terrain. Greg was appalled, but impressed with Sam's tenacity and accepted an invitation to visit Abundant Life Church. He thought the church was wonderful and next time took the children with him.

Conni still would not comply and held her ground. But Greg exerted his leadership role and insisted she was going to go. She said she knew he meant it and that there must have been a trench that developed with her dragging her feet all the way. When she experi-



enced her first Sunday in church, however, she was sold.

A few Sunday's later one of their children became sick on the way to church and they had to go home. In a few hours, Pastor Sam called and asked if they were okay. "We're home, someone cares about us." they decided. They felt loved and accepted and happy.

Greg, his brother, Gary, and cousins, Kim and Tom Janousek, are co-owners of B & C Hardware. Although Greg is very busy at his business, he is also busy at the church, serving on the worship team, leading Bible studies and fulfilling the role of an Elder of our church. Conni has found her niche serving in the nursery. They have felt well fed spiritually.

Life may be a banquet, but a banquet takes preparation, faithful workers in good times and bad. One day we were looking for a church where we could serve, and that would better fit our needs. I knew two people at Abundant Life Church, but knew nothing about the church. I knew Connie Fowler attended there, so I called her to find out what the church believes. She read me the whole statement of belief. We agreed with it all, and we are home.

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Hospitality Lunches "to go meals" 10:30 a.m.	3 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm	4 Hospitality Lunches "to go meals" 10:30 a.m.	5 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am	6
7 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am Barber Welcome Picnic 12:00 noon	8	9 Hospitality Lunches "to go meals" 10:30 a.m.	10 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm Tom Cooper's HH hot lunch	11 Hospitality Lunches "to go meals" 10:30 a.m.	12 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am Golden Empire Communion 1:30 pm	13
14 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am	15	16 Hospitality Lunches "to go meals" 10:30 a.m.	17 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm	18 Hospitality Lunches "to go meals" 10:30 a.m.	19 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am	20 Memorial Service Eileen Elkins 2:00 pm
21 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am	22	23 Hospitality Lunches "to go meals" 10:30 a.m.	24 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm	25 Hospitality Lunches "to go meals" 10:30 a.m.	26 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am	27 Senior's Breakfast 9:00 am
28 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am	29	30 Hospitality Lunches "to go meals" 10:30 a.m.	31 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm			

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ABUNDANT LIFE

Senior Pastor
SAMUEL D. FLOYD

Associate Pastor
GABE BARBER

Our Elders

Samuel Floyd 273-4665
Dan Watson 273-8165
Greg Fowler 478-1976
Chris Bierwagen 477-5992
Tim Floyd 272-9074
Gabe Barber

Our Deacons

Larry Van Cleave 268-7314
Vic Giles 268-0457
Chris Frank 432-3946
Randy Cassel 432-3396
Wayne Badding 432-0588

Telephone

530-273-1139

E-mail

abundantlife1139@yahoo.com

Kathie's Korner

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His armor-bearer was still at attention when the crash of the giant's body hitting the ground startled him into looking around. Onlookers claimed that the cheer that ascended from the Israeli camp could be heard as far as Bethlehem. Whatever the details, it is certain though, that David became a hero that day and received a hero's reward. He also paid a terrible price for his fame, but that's a story for another day.

What is absolutely true is that God was the true Victor in David's battle, just as He is in our battles, when we allow Him to fight them for us.

**Classes Available on Family Night
Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m.**

Adults

Church Awakening	Downstairs
Dan Watson (Larry Van Cleave)	
Band of Brothers	Downstairs
Chris Bierwagen & Tim Floyd	
Women's Support	Library
Teresa Goodwin	
I Corinthians	Downstairs
Greg Fowler	

Youth

(Middle School & High School)
»crossover» Sanctuary
Chris Navo & the Youth Team

Kid's Klub

Kid's Klub Fellowship Hall
Kathee Baerresen & Team

*These classes remain open to new members at all times.
For more specific information, call the church office, 273-1139.*

**Look for Abundant Life Community Church
@ alconline.org & on facebook**

Abundant Life Community Church
10795 Alta Street
P.O. Box 3237
Grass Valley, CA 95945

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