

# HERALD OF ALCC



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

## Kathie's Korner - About Shining...

For a few minutes before getting ready, this morning, I turned on the news. Within seconds, a famous female lawyer, who makes her living telling America what to believe about current trials that have nothing whatsoever to do with any of our lives, was yelling rhetoric in her particular know-it-all manner so loudly I exercised my right to turn the T.V. off.

On any given day, I can hear strangely attired gentlemen with bleached hair and rings in their ears pass judgment on the clothing choices of celebrities and see elderly women with stretched skin make fun of people who are sincerely trying to hold their fragile worlds together. I can listen to politicians lie about everything from why they spent what they did, what is "really going on behind the scenes," to who they are or are not cooperating with, and what they believe about God. I know all about the people who pretend to be people they are not – what movie or performance they last acted in and whether or not it was well accepted. I've likely heard most of America's successful singers speak about something close to their hearts – their latest love interests, and why they wrote their most popular piece of music.

And these are the people who get the honor in our world. We laud them, listen to them, give them attention. If they write something, we buy it. If they say something, it is quoted, and printed. We live in a topsy-turvy world. Things that are truly hideous are termed comedy and tragedy is blindly accepted as common occurrence. No wonder the scripture tells us not to allow ourselves to be "pressed into the world's mold." It is all too easy to do so.

The same media that lauds the lies, belittles the truth of God's path, skimming over the believers, shying away from modesty, honesty and the foundation of God's Word. "It isn't realistic to expect young people to remain chaste until marriage." Creation is referenced as a myth. Truth is *relative*, after all, and not expected to be an absolute...

Sometimes I find myself wanting to withdraw, simply like the monks, create a monastery and remove myself from this world. I cry out, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus!" But Jesus didn't really give us an option to remove ourselves, did he? He said, "Let your light so shine among men that they will see your good works and glorify the Father in Heaven." *Matthew 5:16*

And so I wonder – how do we do that? It occurs to me that we can only let our lights shine if we actually HAVE a light – if there is actually something different about us that the world can see. If we look just like the world around us, act just like them, and sound just like them, there is no shining light of Jesus to follow. It is our very difference, filled with the Spirit of Christ Jesus, that calls to the unbeliever. Without that, the world around us will never stop to think about another path.

Sometimes we get tired of being a light, because it creates tension for us. We want to curse the darkness around us. But shining is the job we are called to do. We're called to be different: Love when they hate. Speak truth when they speak lies. Be kind when they are jerks. Live chastely when they are promiscuous. So, shine into the darkness. Hide under no baskets; just shine. And may God give you courage and strength.

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**"YOU ARE THE LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD.  
A CITY ON A HILL  
CANNOT BE HIDDEN.  
MATTHEW 5:14**

## Time - Kathie Floyd

Time.

How I value it.

I tend to deeply resent people who waste my time. I want them to say what they've got to say, give me the bottom line and let me get on with my next task. I don't like to be called by salesmen in the middle of the day, while I'm at work doing my best to focus on the list of tasks I've got to get done, to say, "How are you, today? Do you have a few minutes to take a brief survey?" My answer is predictable.

As I get older, I realize that time is even more valuable, because I can measure the probable end of my time on earth in a shorter interval than I once did. At one time that end seemed a far distance, now – not far at all.

But there have been a few shining moments in life when I knew for certain that I wished time could stop right there – when the moments weren't long enough – when I wanted to stay forever in that space and just BE THERE. I can list the obvious moments, such as the moment when I fell in love or when my babies were born – but there have been others.

We were, a number of years ago, privileged to attend a Billy Graham School of Evangelism, a smaller gathering than the well-known crusades. At this school in Sacramento, CA there were probably less than 700 in attendance. Unexpectedly, at one afternoon service, Billy Graham, himself, was announced to ad-



dress the attendees, of pastors and church leaders. There was a hush that fell over the congregation as he began to speak, and I think all of us wondered what he would be like in this smaller venue than his great crusades. What we discovered was a man of humility and gentleness, giving credit to everyone around him, believing that his own contribution to his obvious success was small. We listened. We hungered for his words. He could have talked for two hours and held our rapt attention, but no, he had responsibilities to carry out, and he hoped we had a wonderful school... Oh, how we wished the time could have been longer in the presence of that great man...

The coming of Christ was much like that... God became flesh, and dwelt among man.. for a moment. "Oh," John said, "we beheld his glory – the glory of the only begotten of the Father – full of grace and truth!" Can't you just imagine him... thinking.. as we would have... and our time with him was far, far too short.

And this is why the promise of a time eternal, when those of us who value time so much and want so much to spend it wisely, are thrilled to know that someday there will be an eternity of shining moments with Jesus. We will forever be with the One who came to earth, humbling himself to spend "a moment of time" with those of us who didn't deserve his attention, in order to make it possible for us to go forever to be with Him and His Father in Heaven, where time will no longer hold us captive.

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### Families with Young Children (FWYC)

On Sunday, January 22, (weather permitting) FWYC will be gathering at Devere Mautino Park, on Alta Street right after second worship service for a family picnic. Bring food for your family and plan to have fun in the park after lunch. All families with young children are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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### Senior's Breakfast

Senior's breakfast is back to a normal schedule! If you are over 55 years of age, a complimentary breakfast is served monthly at 9:00 a.m., on the last Saturday of the month, in the church fellowship hall. This month, it will be served on January 28. Come and bring your friends - Questions? Call Dan or Connie Watson, 273-8165.

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> New Years Day Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am "Lunch Bunch" 12:30-3:00	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am  Family Night 7:00 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Men's Bible Study 7:30 am	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm Tom's lunch 10:00 am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Men's Bible Study 7:30 am  Golden Empire Communion 1:30 pm	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King Day	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am  Family Night 7:00 pm	<b>19</b> Tom Coopers's Dinner, Sierra Pres. Church 5:30 pm	<b>20</b> Men's Bible Study 7:30 am	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am 12:00 FWYC Picnic "Lunch Bunch" 10:30-12:00 12:30-3:00	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am  Family Night 7:00 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Men's Bible Study 7:30 am	<b>28</b> Senior's Breakfast 9:00 am
<b>29</b> Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am  "Lunch Bunch" 10:30-12:00 12:30-3:00	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

A publication of  
ABUNDANT LIFE

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

**Adults**

Current Sermon Series      Downstairs  
Dan Watson  
Band of Brothers              Downstairs  
Chris Bierwagen & Tim Floyd  
Mark                                Downstairs  
Greg Fowler

**Youth**

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

**Kid's Klub**

Kid's Klub                        Fellowship Hall  
Cheri Barber

*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  
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