

HERALD OF ALCC



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

Kathie's Korner

The room was filled with tired unwashed bodies, sweating with emotion: hostility, hatred. The great carved doors were closed tightly against the night, shutting out ears who might hear plots in the dark – against eyes who might witness violence – against lips that might carry tales too soon to those unsympathetic to their cause.

Around the room sitting, standing, some even reclining in exhaustion, were men of renown in the community, upstanding, respected men, searching diligently for some witness to come forth by truth or by half-truth who would give them the precise legal leverage they needed to force Rome's hand. It didn't occur to them, or perhaps it did, how strange it was that the quiet man in the room, standing in it's exact center, was now completely in their power. The crowds who by day had surrounded him knew nothing of his present predicament, and what friends he had, were now fleeing in the hills for their own safety. He was alone. He was in their power. His hands were bound. Dried spittle ran in muddy rivulets along the sides of his cheeks. His face showed red finger prints from the

slaps of the guards. Powerless, he was!

Yet they hesitated to fully wield their power, for Rome, too, had power, and they respected that power. They dare not put this man to death, though they wished to – though they truly thought him worthy of that death. For doing so might bring the power of Rome down upon their own heads... So they hesitated. It would be so much better, both from a legal standpoint and from their own religious one if Rome were the one to kill him.

In communion services for fifty-five years and more, because I have a vivid imagination, I've pictured this scene. I can even hear in my mind the raised male voices, feel the tension... But what I cannot and never will be able to understand is how these men, who were given every advantage of training in religious education, who had listened to Jesus teach, who had likely witnessed some of his miracles still had no idea what was really going on in that room that night. Blind as proverbial bats, they cursed, they lied about, they condemned the living, breathing, Son of God, Himself. Could they have but seen... They were truly "touching God's anointed." If King David, in

the Old Testament, was afraid to cut even a square off the edge of King Saul's clothing because he was "God's anointed," how much more Jesus Christ...?? But they were blind.

Like those blind Pharisees, we Christians have a tendency to believe that we know quite a bit about what is and what isn't anointed. Peter was no exception. He even based his belief on the Bible. He wasn't eating anything that the Bible called "unclean." Nope. Peter was one Kosher Christian – that is until God let down a sheet filled with "unclean" animals and said, "Peter, eat them." Peter even had the temerity to argue with God. "I can't eat that stuff, God! You know it's not Kosher!" And God said, "Peter, Don't call anything I cleansed unclean." Peter learned something about God's anointing that day. God anoints things sometimes that don't fit our preconceived ideas of what the anointing should rest on.

The Messiah didn't look like what some people thought a Messiah should look like. Some people God anoints are people who may surprise us. Some songs that are anointed may be a revelation.

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This 'N' That - Lois Goodwill - You Know Him...



Even if you do not recognize Ken's name, you know him by his voice. He assists Pastor Sam each Sunday by reading the Scripture during his sermons.

All of us have some point in our lives when we begin to have questions beyond the daily routine of our lives. Ken Croker looks back to a point where his search began. When he was nineteen, the father of a friend of his died, and they had an open casket service for him. As he looked at this now lifeless friend he thought, "If that's it, then nothing makes any sense." As a child, his mother had him baptized as was the custom in her church, but his heart was not in it and answered no questions in his mind.

His church attendance was spasmodic and had hit dry spots. He was invited to a men's Bible study in the home of one of his co-workers who was also a pastor. His understanding of the Bible began to grow. There was a tug in his heart to make a public commitment of his faith in Christ and be baptized, this time understanding what it meant. It was a cold day in October when he decided to be baptized with his men's group at the Biblical Gardens. (It helps to plan ahead.) He brought a change of clothes but no towel and the cold water

left him shivering all day, but gave him a day he won't forget.

One day while Ken was working as the Assistant Manager at Lyon's Restaurant, Pastor Sam came in with Cliff Cromer for lunch, and each time he saw him Ken was amazed by Pastor's ability to know each person he met and care about them. He and his wife, Leah, and her daughter, Melinda, started coming to Abundant Life and Ken found he liked it too. He had never participated in any public activity before, but soon He was acting a part in Christmas in Bethlehem and getting involved in service in various ways. He and Leah feel Abundant Life is the most family oriented church they have attended. He thinks we welcome everyone and encourage people to jump in and get involved.

Ken's wife, Leah, was from a Christian family. They met in 1995, when he was working at the little store on the corner of Ridge Road and Alta Street (up the street from our church). She came in for groceries, and they began to look forward to those visits. They were married in 1997. Between them they have four grown children. Linda is a caregiver and medical technician at Highgate Convalescent Home. Because of her rotating work schedule she is not always able to come to church. During the week you'll find Ken busy as manager at Robinson's Mini Mart and gas station, at the corner of Main

and Bennett. Stop in and say hi! and buy something!

Embracing the Desert Acts 8:26-40

There was a revival in Samaria, and Philip was in the middle of it! Due to intense persecution, he had recently fled Jerusalem and come to the Samaria. He preached the gospel, and then watched as God healed the sick, cast out demons, and brought many to salvation. What an exciting time!

And yet, in the middle of this revival, God called Philip to drop everything and head down to the desert. How difficult it must have been for Philip to understand what God was doing! Here he was, the leader and mouthpiece of an amazing revival, and God was sending him to the home of camels and bandits. And yet, we read that Philip obediently followed God's call, and found an Ethiopian official whose heart was ready to receive the good news of Jesus Christ.

I often wonder how I might have responded if I was Philip. Would I have dropped everything to follow His calling to the middle of nowhere? Philip provides a wonderful model of faithful obedience.

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am	3
4 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am "Lunch Bunch" 10:30-12:00 12:30-3:00	5 Labor Day	6	7 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm	8	9 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am Golden Empire Communion 1:30 pm Women's Seaside Escape 6:00 pm	10 CIB Project Day 9:00-11:30
11 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am	12	13	14 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm	15	16 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am	17
18 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am	19	20	21 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm	22 Tom Cooper's Group, Sierra Pres. Church 5:30 pm	23 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am	24 Senior's Breakfast 9:00 am
25 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am "Lunch Bunch" 10:30-12:00 12:30-3:00	26	27	28 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm	29	30 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am	

A publication of
ABUNDANT LIFE

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Kathie's Korner

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Some musical instruments that are anointed may astonish us. Some ministries that are anointed may come as a shock. We'd just best be very careful about calling anything God has cleansed "unclean," or touching God's anointed...

**THE LORD LIVES!
PRAISE BE
TO MY ROCK!
EXALTED BE GOD
MY SAVIOR!**

**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**

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