

Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

19-21 June 2015

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P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11,19-23, 32-49 (NIV)

David and Goliath 17 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah.

A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; ⁶ on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. ⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. ⁸ Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us."

¹⁰ Then the Philistine said,

"This day I defy the armies of Israel!

Give me a man and let us fight each other

^{" 11} On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."

Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry.²¹ Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. ²² David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. ³² David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account

of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." ³³ Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.'

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them,

because he has defied the armies of the living God.

³⁷ The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head.

1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49 continued ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. ⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. ⁴³He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

Meg's Musings

Many years ago we had a small tea-tree growing in our front yard. Although we were experiencing a drought, the bush was prolific in its blooming.

A friend who is knowledgeable about native plants wasn't surprised. He said that many native species often flower prolifically when they are under stress.

Many introduced plants flower less, or not at all, when confronted with weather which doesn't suit them.

But many species of Australian native plants function differently. They flower prolifically so that they maximise the possibility of spreading seeds. In this way, although the plant itself may not survive, the species is more likely to regenerate when rain arrives. The seeds left

by the "mother" plant can generate new seedlings.

This weeks' readings show us David fighting Goliath, and the disciples being confronted by a fierce squall on Lake Galilee.

When you are confronted by life's difficulties drought, giants, fierce squalls or other calamities - how do you respond?

Blessings from Meg

A friend is long sought, hardly found, and with difficulty kept. ~ St Jerome :

IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Vic Hatfield, who had another lengthy operation last Sunday. Vic will be in hospital for quite some time.
- > We pray for Nancy Parsons who is in hospital with cracked ribs.
- Beulah is still in hospital at Coonabarabran. She is thankful for the wonderful care she is receiving.
- > We uphold the McGillivray family as they mourn the death of Sandy.
- > We thank God for the rain which has fallen this week.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 (NIV)

6 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. $^{\rm 2}\,{\rm For}$ he says,

"In the time of my favor I heard you,

and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Paul's Hardships

³We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

possessing everything. ¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. ¹² We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. ¹³ As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

God will not permit any troubles to come upon us, unless He has a specific plan by which great blessing can come out of the difficulty. ~ Peter Marshall

In my heart I am convinced that this is all meant to be. I'm supposed to be right here right now and I'm open to the journey and to the discoveries and to the adventure of all of this. "Be Here Now" is all about being present and not fearing what you don't know. ~ The Andy Whitfield Story



~Trading Table @ West Tamworth

Mark 4: 35 - 41 (NIV) Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"



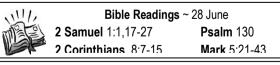
³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

 ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"
⁴¹ Thev were terrified and asked each

other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Psalm 9:9-20 (NIV)

- ⁹ The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
- ¹⁰ Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who see you.
- ¹¹ Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done.
- ¹² For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.
- ¹³LORD, see how my enemies persecute me!
- Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death, ¹⁴ that I may declare your praises
- in the gates of Daughter Zion, and there rejoice in your salvation.
- ¹⁵ The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug; their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.
- ¹⁶ The LORD is known by his acts of justice; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.
- ¹⁷ The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,
- all the nations that forget God. ¹⁸ But God will never forget the needy;
- the hope of the afflicted will never perish. ¹⁹ Arise, LORD, do not let mortals triumph;
- let the nations be judged in your presence. ²⁰ Strike them with terror, LORD;
 - let the nations know they are only mortal.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

18 June ~ Heather Budden

19 June ~ Gillian Jarrett

"The secret to staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age."

CHURCH SERVICES		
26 June 6pm	Hallsville	~ it's a surprise!
28 June 8.30am	Gowrie	~ it's a surprise!
28 June 11am	West	~ it's a surprise!

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus