

MID-VALLEY fellowship

releasing the power of hope

*Hope does not
disappoint us,
because God has
poured out his love
into our hearts
by the Holy Spirit,
whom he has given us.*

Romans 5:5

October 2006

In today's culture, many things have been established as sources of identity. Work, attire, intelligence, and social standing can all seem to define who we are. For some, their choices about sexuality become an identity: homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, transsexual. Mid-Valley Fellowship is a ministry founded on the belief that a person's identity is not based on any of these things, but on their relationship with God. Unfortunately, many people in our world are trapped by sexual feelings they cannot deny and actions they feel they cannot control, all in a world endorsing those as part of a viable lifestyle. Whether they are open about these emotions or not, there are those inside and outside the church who seek to be free from such unwanted desires.

At Mid-Valley Fellowship, we seek to offer hope to those who are struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions in a Christ-centered environment. We are not a church, but a para-church ministry that desires to partner with churches. We believe firmly that "Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us" (Romans 5:5). Mid-Valley Fellowship offers a safe environment in which a person can encounter that hope in the context of trained lay counseling, Biblical instruction, and spiritually centered accountability groups.

Inside this first newsletter for Mid-Valley Fellowship, we anticipate you will see a glimpse of where we come from and the hope that has been extended to us. Our desire is to share with others that same hope we have received.

Duan Walker

Executive Director

Kendra Hanes

Women's Ministry Director

meta·mor·pho·sis

"change of physical form, structure, or substance especially by supernatural means"

by Shar Geisert

Metamorphosis seems to be the key word recently, or "morph" in my language. In 1998, Debra Fredericks established an ex-gay ministry in Corvallis named "Straight to God." When she moved to Ohio in 2001, Phil and I took over the ministry and a morph occurred from "Straight to God" to "Waterfall Ministries." We added the topics of sexual abuse, sexual addiction, and pornography. Phil and I still have a heart for and will continue to minister to those struggling in these areas. You may be receiving this newsletter because of contact with "Straight to God" or "Waterfall Ministries."

A couple months ago, Duan Walker and Kendra Hanes shared with us their vision for the future of ministry to those struggling with same-sex attraction in the Mid-Valley. "Great!" we said, "The more the merrier." Therefore, we have joined with Duan and Kendra in another morph: Mid-Valley Fellowship. Whew! I think we're done now.

Duan and Kendra have expertise, vision, enthusiasm, and energy. Phil and I, after my heart problem, are just happy to be alive! It is our hope that you will receive Duan and Kendra's heart to serve this community. It is a hard ministry in so many ways. Any kindness will not go unnoticed! Prayerfully consider inviting them to speak to your congregation or small groups. We have hurting people among us that need this unique ministry. Let's let them know we care.

Thank you all for your prayers and support.



Phil & Shar Geisert



Portland Fellowship

by Jason Thompson, Executive Director
Regional Representative, Exodus International

Since 1988, through the ministry of Portland Fellowship, God has provided men and women a safe and challenging atmosphere for personal growth and real transformation. Those struggling with same-sex attractions have a place where God does a powerful work in their lives through the encouragement, support, and prayers of others who have experienced similar struggles. Until now, Portland Fellowship has been the only redemptive ministry of its kind in the state of Oregon. As one can imagine, this has left a huge need outside the Portland metro area.

I'm pleased to share what God is now doing through the leadership of Duan Walker. After participating in the Upper Room Intern Program, God laid on Duan's heart a passion to carry on this work in his home town and the surrounding area. Duan knows the incredible privilege of serving our Lord on the front lines, but also knows the risk and opposition that stands in the way. Yet the Lord is building his Kingdom and we have the opportunity to participate in this great work. My sincere hope is that you will assist Duan, Kendra, and the ministry of Mid-Valley Fellowship with your time, money, and prayers. You will be greatly blessed.

About Us

Often in our spiritual journeys, God uses past hurt and brokenness to help us better understand others in similar situations. Such is the case for us at Mid-Valley Fellowship. In future newsletters, we will be sharing our personal stories of walking away from same-sex attraction. For now, we just want to express our sincere thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter and encourage you to attend the Sy Rogers event on October 15th. Thank you!



Duan Walker
Executive Director



Kendra Hanes
Women's Ministry Director

Sy Rogers Visits the Mid-Valley

A gifted international communicator, award-winning talk show host, recording artist, and pastor, Sy has served for over twenty years as a pastoral care specialist addressing sexuality and related concerns. Featured in numerous media interviews & articles, Sy has been selected as one of *Christianity Today's* "50 Up & Coming Evangelical Leaders Under 40." Married since 1982, Sy and his family have lived abroad for more than a decade in Singapore and New Zealand.



www.syrogers.com

Sunday, October 15th, 6:00pm
Lifespring Foursquare Church
1495 NW 20th Street, Corvallis, OR 97330
www.fourlife.org



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Please complete and return the enclosed Response Card to continue receiving future newsletters, via Standard Mail or E-Mail. If you wish to discontinue receiving the newsletter, no further action is necessary.



Prayer Requests

- Sy Rogers visit, Sunday, October 15
- Meeting location for mentoring & groups
- Future participants
- Prayer intercessors
- Financial support



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