

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 2007

Transformational Giving

If you've visited downtown Albany recently, you probably noticed there are some significant changes underway, particularly on First Avenue. Two historic buildings are being remodeled, both close to 100 years old. Many of the architectural elements on their façades were covered or replaced years ago with styles current to the era in which the work was done (1960's & 1970's). Now the owners are removing the 60's/70's style elements and attempting to return them to something similar to the original design. Due to the extent of the work, both buildings have been virtually gutted and their façades removed. It's been quite a transformation – very visibly noticeable.

Transformation can also take on a much less visibly dramatic shift. The word "transform" actually means "to change in *character* or *condition*." The changes happening to the buildings are a definite change in condition. This month we wanted to share a different type of transformation – a change in character – particularly as it relates to financial giving. This month Mid-Valley Fellowship will be celebrating its first year as a ministry with a benefit dinner. Many people have supported us over the last year with prayer, encouragement, and financial partnerships. We wanted to share with you how financial partnership has transformed one couple, an individual, and the ministry of Mid-Valley Fellowship.



Transformation: The Donors

by Dick & Terry Greenwood

All through our years of walking with the Lord, we've had a desire to support various missionary works around the world, as well as our home church. Generally, this work has been for Bible translation, prayer ministries, evangelistic radio or TV programs, and support for individuals planning temporary mission support work. Sometimes we've decided to support a ministry because God called us to support that specific ministry, and sometimes we've begun supporting a ministry because God's called us to support an individual in their chosen ministry.

We had known Duan, through church, for several years and appreciated his heart for the Lord and for others. Working with him on various church projects, it didn't take long to see the many gifts God has given him and Duan's heart to serve God in any way he was called to serve. During these years, we never suspected the inner struggle he was continually facing.

When Duan shared the battle he was fighting and the great opportunity he had to intern at Portland Fellowship, we knew we wanted to support him in our prayers and financially. We're retired and on a fixed income, so our financial help for Duan isn't what we'd like it to be. Knowing God uses all gifts, large and small, we wanted to add what we could to help him. Contributing even the small amount we give has been a good reminder to keep him in our prayers, both as he interned in Portland and now as he serves others in the Mid-Valley. Financial gifts are certainly needed and appreciated in any ministry work, but the key to success is finding people who will pray for God's blessing, direction, protection, opportunities to reach the right people, and inroads into the hearts of those who are living quietly desperate lives as they do battle with Satan and themselves.

Supporting Duan and Mid-Valley Fellowship has increased our awareness of the immense mission field there is in our local area and our own churches to reach out and give hope and help to those struggling with homosexuality. It's also increased our burden for and our love for these people. Satan is an adversary that will chose any method of deceiving and destroying God's loved ones. How exciting it is to be on the front lines with Duan and Kendra, at least in our prayers and little gifts, and taking back ground from the Evil One in the battle for the lives being helped and healed by God through Mid-Valley Fellowship.



Transformation: The Recipient

by Duan Walker

Two years ago at this time, I was in the process of making a significant change in my life vocationally. I wasn't sure what the future held, but I knew I needed to make the change. For 9 years, I had worked in various corporate environments. I knew how businesses ran and how to do what was expected and more. Life was fairly predictable in many ways. You show up at work every day. People call or e-mail or come by with an issue or difficulty. While the issues changed, the method of resolving them usually didn't. There were

moments of crisis – some real, some imagined – some under your control, some not. And at the end of most days, you can go home and forget all about it until the next morning. At the end of every month, you take home a nice paycheck that makes it all seem worthwhile ... sort-of ...

I found myself at a crossroads. I could continue with predictable corporate life, or I could step into the unknown-ness and unpredictability of ministry and an internship at Portland Fellowship. When I announced my upcoming departure to my co-workers, one of them asked, "So, how much does the internship pay?"

"Nothing. I actually pay them." With a stunned and bewildered look on his face, he replied, "It doesn't pay anything? You're leaving a good-paying job for that?" No matter how much I explained, it didn't make sense to him. As my departure drew closer, he would often just shake his head when walking past me ...

And honestly, it made no sense to me either. On paper, it was downright ridiculous. So, when Dick and Terry agreed to support me financially, it was incredible! It truly didn't matter how much they were giving because the gift meant something more than just money. It meant that these two people saw my potential for ministry, believed in me, were praying for me, and were willing to give accordingly. And the same is true today. When I go to the mailbox and there's a gift or note from someone, it reminds me there are people behind us. And when someone gives for the first time, it excites me to see someone else join the team.



Transformation: The Beneficiary

Mid-Valley Fellowship by Kendra Hanes

Our purpose as a ministry is to extend a message of hope to those struggling with homosexuality and others impacted by homosexuality (family, friends, etc.). In order to communicate that message, people must know that we exist, particularly those who would benefit from our support. Having financial and prayer partners like Dick and Terry has enabled us to communicate with a growing audience so that those in need can hear our message. Additionally, it has enabled Duan to spend more focused attention on the ministry of Mid-Valley Fellowship.

As mentioned earlier, MVF will be having a benefit dinner on October 20th. We will be celebrating what God has done in the last year, sharing the vision of Mid-Valley Fellowship, and giving attendees an opportunity to partner with us in ministry. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful event, please contact us by phone or e-mail. Don't miss this opportunity to partner with us and see the transformation that will occur.



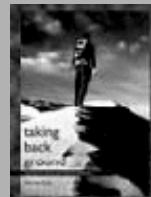
Please Join Us in Praying

Heavenly Father, scripture teaches us that every good and perfect gift comes from You. Help us to use wisely the gifts that You have given us, guiding us in Your purposes. We ask for the ability to hold loosely all that we have received, remembering that You have called us to serve.

Taking Back Ground Begins October 3rd

This two-year discipleship program is designed for men and women seeking to heal from sexual and relational brokenness. Please pray for the leaders and participants as they seek direction and growth.

Please Call or E-Mail for More Information



PO Box 3141, Albany, OR 97321
www.midvalleyfellowship.org
541.928.2164

Duan Walker

Executive Director

duan@midvalleyfellowship.org

Kendra Hanes

Women's Ministry Director

kendra@midvalleyfellowship.org