

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

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Releasing the Power of Hope

by Duan Walker

As I sat down to write the article for the newsletter this month, the first question I had to ask was, "What do I want to communicate?" That really ties in with a bigger question: "Why do we exist as a ministry?" And that has been a question God has been clarifying in my mind over the last couple months. At the end of the day, it all comes down to one thing – one message we endeavor to communicate: Hope. The importance of that message is reflected in the fact that it is part of our logo – tied to our identity as a ministry. We exist to "release the power of hope." But what does that mean?



The Message: Hope

Hope is “confident trust with expectation of fulfillment.” When we hope, we look toward something beyond our current situation with the confidence that whatever it is can happen. Much like faith, hope is intangible and can often seem illogical. And yet, we need hope in our lives. We yearn to look beyond ourselves — beyond right now — toward something else. That is the essence of hope.

If we have experienced hope or the result of hope (comfort), we are challenged to share that with others. II Corinthians 1:3-4 puts it this way:

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

As a ministry, we understand the hopelessness and struggle with homosexuality, and God has done a work in us. He has comforted and given hope in our lives. He has walked with us through the difficulty and the mess — sometimes through the care of others, sometimes through direct intervention. Now we have the incredible opportunity and responsibility to share that message with others — a message of hope and comfort.

The Power of the Message

Hope has incredible power. If there was no faith or hope in life, civilization would never advance. Inventors would not believe or hope that their invention could change the world long enough to make it through everyone else's doubts. We would never have the many amazing things that seemed inconceivable five, ten, or twenty years ago.

The same is true in our lives. Without the hope of something beyond a life controlled by bad habits, addictions, or a lifestyle, we would not be motivated to grow. As Christians, if there was no hope for a deeper relationship with God, why cultivate that relationship? Hope (or lack thereof) directs our lives. With accurately placed hope, we believe in something greater or beyond our frame of reference and have strength to move forward. We are not disappointed. Romans 5:5 says, “Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

Your Part in the Message

If no one ever communicated hope, it would be as if it didn't exist. That is one of our biggest challenges as a ministry: How do we effectively communicate a message of hope to those impacted by homosexuality? Many in the Church do not hear a hope-filled, redemptive message about homosexuality, either from unawareness or discomfort with the topic. In that silence, we hear messages in schools, the media, and increasingly in churches that say, “embrace homosexuality.” The greatest hope offered is that of a tolerant society who will celebrate the homosexual lifestyle. Is that really a message of hope that will not disappoint us?

In the absence of a redemptive conversation about homosexuality, those impacted end up in a place of hopelessness and futility. The mother with a son embracing the gay lifestyle, the husband trying desperately to be faithful to his wife, the college student following peer pressure to experiment sexually, or the child reaching puberty only to discover they really are different than everyone else. Our silence slams the door on hope. In contrast, communication of a redemptive message throws the door wide open to those seeking hope and points them towards hope that will not disappoint. That is why communication is a priority to us. God has done a work in our lives and that is worth sharing. Through sharing our lives and experiences, we endeavor to encourage and offer hope, no matter what the issue.

And that's where you come in. We have experience speaking with diverse audiences. Have we shared in a community of which you are a part? If not, we invite you to join in the message of hope by facilitating that opportunity. If we have shared with a community of which you are a part, tell someone you know about us and encourage their community to take the opportunity to learn more.

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Prayer Requests

*MVF Board, Staff, and Volunteers
as we welcome new individuals
and prepare for the summer and fall.
Additional Volunteers & Partners*