



*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*

*May 2008*

## **A Dream Come True**

**by Kendra Hanes, Women's Ministry Director**

My journey with Mid-Valley Fellowship can be traced back to a meeting with Duan in March of 2006. One of the things we discussed in that meeting was my dream of seeing a ministry in the Corvallis/Albany region where people could receive the same help I had received in my struggle with unwanted homosexual desires. From 2002 onward, I had walked through the Oregon State Campus many times, praying for those whose struggles were hidden yet weighing so heavily on them that they thought they would be buried alive. I had prayed for those who were content within the homosexual lifestyle, not judging them, but honestly hoping they would come to know God's creative intent for their lives. It was in these prayers that my dream was birthed. From there my dream began to extend beyond campus, and my prayers expanded as well. And it was in that meeting with Duan two years ago that the dream began to come true, that my prayers began to be answered.

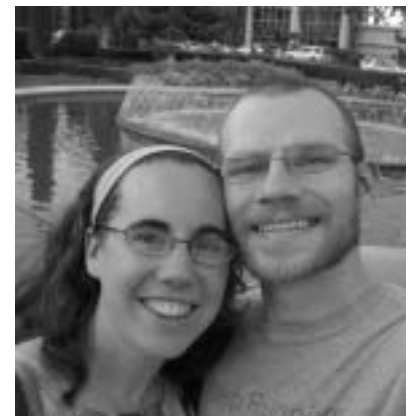
I've often been a reluctant leader, preferring by nature to stay on the sidelines, but also often seeing needs that no one else seems willing to address. In my first year of involvement with MVF, I sometimes wondered why God was allowing me to take a position of leadership. When I asked Him about it, the only answer I got was, "Because you said yes when I asked you to." And I was so glad I had said yes.

I have to say that my "yes" was limited by my time as a working student, and that I could not pour myself into full time ministry. Even so, what I was able to put into the ministry was miniscule compared to what I felt God taught me through my involvement. He showed His provision in financial contributions, in volunteers, in prayer supporters, and in Duan's many talents as an administrator and visionary leader. I saw church leaders changed by our message. I watched tears come to church members eyes as they connected with our message. I talked with women who were burdened by their struggle and affirmed them in their walk with God. I saw the few but faithful participants in Taking Back Ground pushing forward in spite of the difficulty of the process of surrender. In all of this, God taught me how much ministry is about Him and not about me. Often I knew I didn't have the words I needed ahead of time to share appropriately with a church, a small group, or an individual and yet many times the words were there at just the right time. And sometimes I tried to minister in my own strength. I found that doesn't work nearly as effectively as leaning on God's.

Recently, the limitations of my own strength have come to the forefront in my life. I faced a medical crisis at the close of January that was a wake-up call for me and my husband. I had ignored symptoms that I was not well, choosing to pretend that I was stronger than I really was. As a result, I wound up in the hospital. Over the last several months I have had to live with the difficult reality that things in my life had to radically change. One of those things changing is my role with MVF. I am stepping down as Women's Ministry Director, though I will continue to pray for the ministry as I have often encouraged others to do. With my limited strength, I need to focus on things closer to home.

One passage of Scripture has been my focus for the last month or more. Psalm 62:5-6 reads, "Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." I would like to close with these verses because they encapsulate what I see happening at Mid-Valley Fellowship. A key part of the message of MVF is a call to rest in God, to hope in God, and to root oneself in God. As I have called others to do this, I am now being called by God to do so apart from formal ministry, knowing that I continue to minister informally in my home and in my work simply by resting in the presence of God.

For those who have encouraged me along the way, thank you. For those who have prayed for the ministry from day one, thank you. For those who have participated in the first year of Taking Back Ground, I applaud you in your journey and pray that you will continue to hope in the Lord Jesus Christ first and foremost. For all who have been touched so far by this ministry, know that you are part of a dream come true.





**Mid-Valley Fellowship Board of Directors**

# Thank You, Kendra!

by Duan Walker on behalf of the Board of Directors

I think no matter who you are, change can be difficult, but it is a reality in our lives. Such is the case with Kendra's involvement in Mid-Valley Fellowship. Had it not been for her willingness to step into the vision God had given her and commit it to prayer, MVF would not be where it is today. After Kendra and I met for the first time in 2006, it became clear to both of us how God was leading. The presence of each other was a confirmation of how God had been working in both our lives. In the months that followed, the vision and passion God had given to each of us was confirmed by significant people in our lives, volunteers who came alongside, and others who partnered with us.

We will greatly miss Kendra's contribution to Mid-Valley Fellowship. She taught with depth for Taking Back Ground, challenged individuals in their process of pursuing holiness, and encouraged people with a message of redemption and hope. During our regular meetings, she gave feedback and perspective in addition to simply being a consistent partner in ministry. We are incredibly appreciative of her service.

The Board of Mid-Valley Fellowship is committed to the future of the ministry as a whole and meeting the needs of women who seek support. We value your continued partnership through prayer and financial support, especially in the midst of this transitional time.

**Please Join Us in Thanking Kendra by sending Notes of Appreciation to her via E-mail ([kendra@midvalleyfellowship.org](mailto:kendra@midvalleyfellowship.org)) or Standard Mail (PO Box 3141, Albany, OR 97321)**

## Visit Mid-Valley Fellowship This Summer

### Sy Rogers Video & Discussion Series

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.

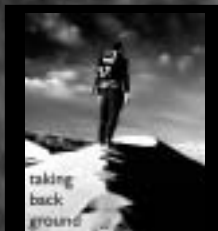
- June 11th - Sy Rogers Testimony:** One of the Boys
- June 25th - Power of Relationships:** How God Disciples the Sexual Generation
- July 9th - Renewing the Mind:** Understanding the Partnership of Biology & Body
- July 23rd - Power of Forgiveness:** How Jesus Heals the Broken Hearted
- August 6th - What Works:** Corporate & Individual Responsibility in Recovery
- August 20th - Relapse Prevention:** How to Avoid Becoming a Statistic

**Group Starts at 7:00pm - Everyone is Welcome!**

1495 NW 20th Street, Corvallis



## Plan Ahead for Fall 2008



**Call or E-mail for More Information**

**What an Alumnus says about the Discipleship & Support Program, *Taking Back Ground*:**

*It turns out my biggest fears were the greatest gifts God blessed me with during the program. I didn't walk into a group of people ready to judge and condemn me. I found a loving group of people who knew where I was coming from and were able to see me through the eyes of grace, not the sin that had a hold on my life.*

**MID-VALLEY**  
**fellowship**  
*releasing the power of hope*

PO Box 3141, Albany, OR 97321  
[www.midvalleyfellowship.org](http://www.midvalleyfellowship.org)  
541.928.2164

**Duan Walker**  
Executive Director  
[duan@midvalleyfellowship.org](mailto:duan@midvalleyfellowship.org)

**Kendra Hanes**  
Women's Ministry Director  
[kendra@midvalleyfellowship.org](mailto:kendra@midvalleyfellowship.org)