



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 2009

## We Need YOU!

by Duan Walker, Executive Director

It's Tuesday afternoon, and I'm putting the finishing touches on my lesson for our support program, Taking Back Ground. In a couple hours, our volunteer group leaders will arrive, along with our prayer intercessor. We will spend some time checking in with each other and planning and praying about the evening. Shortly after, the participants will arrive. They will inevitably hear, learn, and wrestle with issues and challenges as they engage in their process of walking away from homosexual desires. Tomorrow, after the participants have returned to the rest of their week, our other prayer intercessors will begin lifting them up in prayer, partnering with them in their process of growth.

Later this week, a group of volunteers will come together to put labels on envelopes that they will then stuff with this month's newsletter. Other volunteers will spend time in the Mid-Valley Fellowship Office throughout the week, making phone calls, doing projects, and helping in various other ways.

In early May, we will be hosting a lunch for pastors and ministry leaders in the local area. A group of mothers from a local church will be helping us get everything ready for the lunch as a service project. Last fall, another group of individuals helped us set up for our benefit dinner and made guests feel welcome.

All these volunteers make the ministry of Mid-Valley Fellowship possible. They join with those partnering financially to share a message of hope with those impacted by homosexuality.

Recently, I have been confronted with my limitations. While this is not a new occurrence, the focus of the awareness this time is different. As MVF grows and we begin to meet more needs, the need to engage more people in the ministry increases as well. And that's where you come in. We need YOU!

Now, at this point, I feel the need to acknowledge a couple of things. First, many people and responsibilities necessitate your time and attention. Time is incredibly valuable. Second, I do not want service at Mid-Valley Fellowship to be another demand on your time that you wish you could get out of. Instead, my desire is to see people embracing their God-given design (passion, spiritual gifts, style) and serving in light of that. In his book *What You Do Best in the Body of Christ*, Bruce Bugbee describes how these three elements work in conjunction with one another:

*When you are serving in your area of passion, you will serve more enthusiastically. When using your spiritual gifts, you will serve more competently. When serving in ways that are consistent with your personal style, you will serve with greater freedom.*



The other day, I was using Skype to chat with a friend of mine who is doing missionary work in Paraguay (isn't technology wonderful?). He is finishing up his second 1-year term and was contemplating what the future would look like. He seemed surprised at how much he's been enjoying his time there and how much his heart is there. But it does not surprise me.

Host MVF for Homosexuality 101 at Your Church!



Educational  
Interactive  
Practical

Homosexuality 101 is an interactive three-part curriculum, intended to fit into a Sunday School or Small Group format. The focus is to educate, give practical advice, and answer questions on this complex and confusing topic.

Contact Us to Learn More  
541.928.2164  
office@midvalleyfellowship.org

## Upcoming Events

May 3, 10  
Youth Service  
North Albany Community

May 6  
Pastors Lunch

May 5, 12, 19, 26  
Taking Back Ground



## Prayer Requests

Please pray for our **Taking Back Ground** participants and leaders. As they encounter challenges and new issues to address, pray for strength, courage, and endurance.

Please pray for our **Pastor's Lunch** coming up at the beginning of the month.

Praise for **opportunities to share** in various church settings. Pray for those who will hear about MVF and their response to the message.



Neighbor to Neighbor is a strategy we are initiating to share the ministry of MVF with new people. The simple idea is to invite 5 or 6 friends to your home for a meal and conversation with Duan Walker, MVF's Director. Contact us for more information.

I first met him when I was living in Portland. I was trying to find a church and visited the one he attended. He was teaching Spanish at a local school. In all our conversations, I never really heard him excited about his job. He was a competent teacher and knew Spanish very well, but you could tell teaching in that scenario really was not his passion. Then one day, he talked about a missions trip he had been on to somewhere in South America, and his face lit up! He would take opportunities for short-term mission trips as much as possible. So, when the opportunity came for him to go to Paraguay for a year, teaching English in a mission school and reaching out to those in the local community, it was a no-brainer. I was excited to see him go — to see him embrace his God-given design — even though pursuing his passion meant that a good friend of mine was moving to another continent.

What the ministry of Mid-Valley Fellowship needs more than warm bodies, are people who are pursuing their God-given design. We need people who have a heart to serve and passion to join in sharing hope with those impacted by homosexuality.

**In this month's newsletter, we have enclosed an additional response card for you to prayerfully consider. There are volunteer opportunities in various aspects of the ministry of Mid-Valley Fellowship. If you are not sure what kind of involvement would best fit you, indicate that as well, and we can connect to find the right role.**

## Pastor & Ministry Leader Lunch

Enjoy a free lunch  
Learn about the ministry  
Hear how we can serve you  
Ask questions about homosexuality

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

12:00pm - 2:00pm

Flinn Block Hall in Historic Downtown Albany

Cost is Free. Please RSVP.

Online: [www.midvalleyfellowship.org/pastors](http://www.midvalleyfellowship.org/pastors)

Phone: 541.928.2164

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

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