



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

March 2010

Surrender

by Angela Miller, Taking Back Ground Volunteer



This past month, the leaders in Mid-Valley Fellowship's weekly support program, Taking Back Ground, began preparing for our first ever Surrender Service. Although surrender in the lives of our participants is an ever-present important part of their ongoing healing and growth, we decided it would be powerful and impacting to set aside an evening to focus solely on surrender. We took a few weeks leading up to this important evening to talk with the participants about what it may look like in their lives, and to prayerfully consider what it was they felt God was asking them to surrender to Him. We watched as many began to share what they thought He may be asking of them, and the pain that accompanied the anticipation of surrendering those things. We prayed a lot with them and for them leading up to this evening, that they would be obedient, and the enemy would not discourage them from surrendering what they needed to. We also prayed that in doing the physical act of laying down a symbol of the surrendered item at the foot of a cross, it would be a freeing experience this evening as well as in the days to come. We prayed that whenever they would be tempted to take back that "thing" that they had surrendered to God, they would be reminded of where they left the "thing" – just where it belongs – in the care of the Savior. As a leader, it was my deepest desire to see the people we work with and care so deeply for, embrace this opportunity we were giving them, and in doing so, God would use it as a turning point in their healing process.

As the night arrived, I must confess I was more than a little anxious. I was unsure of how the evening would unfold. Questions entered my mind, such as, "Would it make me or others feel uncomfortable?" and "What kind of pain would I see on their faces as they shared what and why they were surrendering these particular things?" Like some of you reading this article, I have a God-given gift of mercy, and because of that, my heart hurts when I see other people's hurts. I've learned over the years from working with hurting women, that people have to address the things that hurt – SO THAT they can heal. As a person coming alongside them in this, it is extremely hard and often very uncomfortable to watch, but the reward is freedom – and that is something to celebrate!! I knew that would be a part of this evening as well, and I was excited about it, no matter how hard the process of getting there would be.

The evening of the Surrender service – I realize it's impossible to help you see and feel what I saw and felt without you being there, but imagine with me if you can ... A candle-lit room. All seated facing a tall wooden cross. A quiet yet

The evening of the Surrender service – I realize it's impossible to help you see and feel what I saw and felt without you being there, but imagine with me if you can ... A candle-lit room. All seated facing a tall wooden cross. A quiet yet



Impacted by Homosexuality?

A personal struggle? Friend or family member struggling?
Seeking more information?

Join Us for Open Groups: March 2nd, 16th, 30th

**Hear Personal Testimonies ~ Share Your Heart ~ Be Encouraged
Groups Begin at 7:00pm ~ Everyone is Welcome!**

Mid-Valley Fellowship is located inside the Willamette Community Church building at 420 Third Avenue SE, Albany. Enter through the handicapped parking lot entrance off Railroad Street.

Mark Your Calendar

March 2, 16, 30

Open Groups

March 4

Morningstar Church

Duan will be speaking for the Middle School Group.

March 9

University Christian Center

Duan will be speaking for the evening group.

April 6, 13, 20, 27

Taking Back Ground

April 21

Pastor/Leader Lunch



Education

We are available to speak for churches, schools, youth groups, leadership teams, and small groups, sharing a message of hope for those impacted by homosexuality. We have also created a curriculum entitled "Homosexuality 101" that is designed for presentation in a Small Group or Sunday School Class. Contact us to learn more.



Prayer

Pray for upcoming speaking opportunities -- for wisdom and clarity in communication.

Pray for our participants as they continue the process of surrender.

Pray for direction as we explore a significant ministry opportunity.

strong sense of anticipation in the air. Songs sung out in worship to God. Directions from Duan for how the evening would go. Waiting prayerfully. More waiting.

It seemed like a long wait – until at last the first of all these courageous participants took his place standing front and center. He began to share. Tears began to fall. The Spirit of the Holy God joined us. Each one in their own time, individually, came before the group and shared what they knew God was asking them to surrender – hurts, failures, relationships, believed lies, unhealthy behaviors – many of which represented years and even decades of strongholds – and all the emotion that goes along with releasing these things. Then, at the foot of the cross, they laid an item they brought to symbolize those things. They knelt down before the cross as we surrounded them in love and support as we prayed for them. The emotional, and spiritual release of these things was almost something you could see or touch - it was so real. Leaders and participants alike were able to speak truth and encouragement into individual's lives as they surrendered.

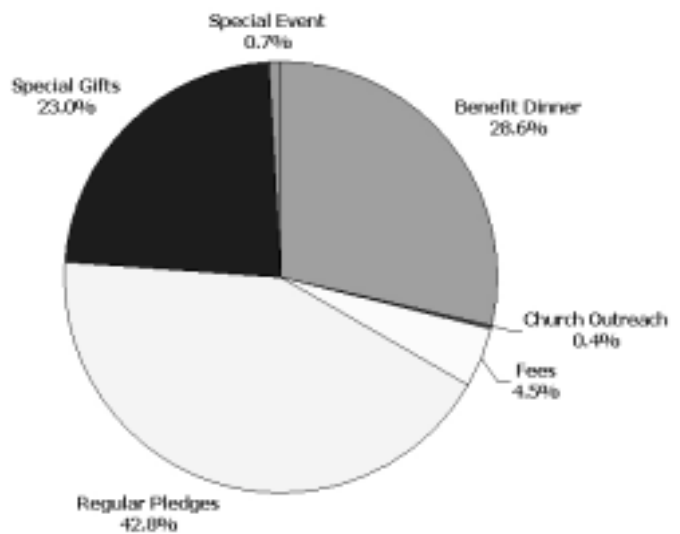
This continued throughout the evening as each one came and did what they had come to do. Lastly, they were served communion. As they were surrendering, essentially "getting rid of" or "taking off" one thing – they were making room to take on more of Jesus. The reminder of communion being that they have already been freed from whatever holds they have been living under – and that it was at the cross that they were freed. That's a reminder for us all – let's live as the free overcomers we are through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. I believe the evening ended with people leaving not only a physical item behind, but also leaving a whole lot of crippling, unhealthy stuff from the past behind as well.

To say that the evening was powerful would really be an understatement. I am so blessed to have been a part of it. I anticipate and continue to pray for the freedom and changes we will see in the days ahead as a result of what happened the night of the Surrender Service. I invite you to pray with me.

INCOME SOURCES

Oops!

In our Annual Report last month, we inadvertently placed the wrong graph in the report under "Income Sources." The graph should have been the one displayed here. Our apologies for any confusion.



MID-VALLEY
fellowship
Releasing the power of hope

Duan Walker
 Executive Director
 duan@midvalleyfellowship.org

Shar Geisert & Angela Miller
 Women's Ministry Volunteers
 women@midvalleyfellowship.org

All communication with Mid-Valley Fellowship is confidential.
 PO Box 3141, Albany, OR 97321 • 541.928.2164 • www.midvalleyfellowship.org