

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

August 2010



Rooted in Prayer

by Duan Walker, Executive Director

This last weekend, Albany hosted the Willamette Celebration — a community event with concerts by Newsboys, Skillet, Phil Vasser, and others, along with a Family Fun Zone, extreme sports demonstrations, and service to the community. And in the context of all those activities, the Gospel was shared numerous times. The thousands of people in attendance had the opportunity to hear a message that is truly a source of celebration. The weekend came and went, as events in our lives often do, but it was much more than just the event. Planning and preparation has been going on for roughly the last 24 months. And more significant than the planning, there has been PRAYER. Every week there was prayer and then every day. There were 12-hour prayer times. Churches in the community became more unified and prayed together. “If my people..will humble themselves and pray...then will I hear...forgive...and heal their land” (II Chronicles 7:14). Prayers were offered for the event, the people involved, for the unity of the Church in the Mid-Valley, and all those people who would respond to the Gospel. The event was really just a culmination — the result of all that prayer.

Now, let's be honest: Prayer is often very difficult for us. There's the fact that our lives are hijacked with busyness, and prayer requires some

slowing down. It's counter-intuitive with the pace of our lives. We can also doubt the effectiveness of prayer. Most of us have experienced what we perceive to be God's closed ears towards us. We prayed, but God didn't do what we wanted Him to. We forget that Psalm 37 says God will give us the desires of our hearts, only after we delight/abide in Him. When we are in His presence, our desires will align with His. We will better understand His will and purpose, rather than trying to get Him to conform to ours.

All the focus on prayer in our community has really challenged me. You may not realize this, but when Taking Back Ground is in session (October-May), we have prayer intercessors who are covering the leaders and participants in prayer. This last year, we had two prayer intercessors who came every week for the program and four others off-site who were lifting up the specific needs of those to whom we are ministering. I asked them to share a little about that experience, which is included on this page.

There were two situations that struck me personally over the last year, which didn't get mentioned in their contributions. The first happened one Tuesday/Wednesday in the middle of the night, after Taking Back Ground earlier in the evening. I woke up and felt compelled to pray for the participants. I didn't think much of it until I went to read my e-mail the next morning. One of the intercessors had e-mailed that they had been awakened in the middle of the night and compelled to

Sometimes I wonder if my prayers just bounce off the ceiling. Either I'm praying for something that I'm never meant to have the answer to, or I just don't hear or see an answer. Praying for MVF has been different. I've seen change or healing come about in people in the very ways in which I was praying for them. I've known for certain that God was working even when no one could visibly see the work He was doing in the ministry. I think my favorite times have been when I've prayed for someone in ways they hadn't asked for, but turned out to need.

—Kendra

We all have challenges, weaknesses, and opportunities for growth. We wrestle with a powerful adversary whenever we attempt to obey God and allow Him to change and grow us. When others are praying for us, we become stronger, braver, and more determined in the battles of life. Prayer chases Satan away and gives us a clearer vision of what God is doing in our lives. I know this is true, because I've experienced it myself. Those who have committed themselves to Mid-Valley Fellowship as participants or staff are on the frontlines of the battlefield. Satan wants to destroy them and claim victory. God wants us to share in His victory over Satan and our own sinful natures, and we do that when we pray! Specific prayers, for specific people, bring specific answers. It's an honor to pray for others who are choosing to become overcomers.

—Terry

pray. And then a second reported the same. In our joint commitment to intercede, God had drawn us together in unity to pray for a situation beyond our knowledge ... amazing! Additionally, one of our intercessors may occasionally be asked to pray specifically for a participant or to sit in on the small group time. Even though they had no knowledge of situations or requests in that moment, they were able to pray and speak things that directly related to the participant's process — concerns they had just been sharing with the group. God was giving the intercessor the wisdom to speak effectively and accurately into someone's life. And the participant got to see God moving in their lives — WOW!

As I contemplate the next three months of ministry, there are some really significant things coming up. Starting this month, we will be offering a series called **Understanding Sexual Addiction**. Next month, **Clean Heart Groups** begin for those struggling with pornography or sexual addiction. In October, **Taking Back Ground** begins for those struggling with homosexuality. The same month, we have our 4th Annual **Benefit Dinner**. Contemplating all these things causes me to realize the necessity of prayer. None of them will be possible or effective without it. **So, I want to challenge you and me with two things over the next three months:**

Commit to 90 Days of Prayer. All these areas of ministry can use your prayer, and they kick off or happen in the next 90 days. Will you join with me in praying intentionally over this time? We've even created a prayer guide to aid in that commitment.

Serve as a Prayer Intercessor. Times of direct ministry (Taking Back Ground and Clean Heart Groups) are only effective with prayer. Will you partner with participants in their process by specifically praying for them? Contact us to learn more or get involved.



The Board of Directors and Staff are taking on the 90-Day Challenge, and we want you to join with us. Please drop us a note or e-mail and let us know you'll be praying. Then after this season of prayer, we can all celebrate what God does in and through that time.

Mark Your Calendar

August 3, 10, 17, 24

Understanding Sexual Addiction Series

August 8, 15, 22

Eastside Christian Church
Duan will be presenting Homosexuality 101.

August 22

Summer Jubilee, Lebanon
Come visit our booth at this community event.

August 29

Calvary Chapel, Albany
We will be presenting the ministry in both services.

August 31

Leadership Training for Taking Back Ground

Thanks!

We had a great time at Wilamette Celebration in the Community Resources Tent. There were some great opportunities for conversation with the community. Thank you to all who helped make that possible!

Flip Anderson
Kristi Bertagna
Chris Bryant
Jon Eick
Phil & Shar Geisert
Sean & Leiah Greene
Monika James
Luann Knapp
Randy & Lauri Williams
Dwight Wolfe



Save the Date!

HARVESTING
the weary
and burdened

Friday, October 15, 2010

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All communication with Mid-Valley Fellowship is confidential.