



Ministering the Fatherless

continued ▲ from page 38

worst case scenario for the fatherless, there is hope for people to overcome.

Strong tells the story of a young man, an unfamiliar face to the church, who sat in for a service at Life Change Christian Center one morning. Strong was speaking to people in the pews about growing up without a father, when after the service, he noticed the same boy crying.

Strong asked the young man in tears what troubled him and the boy said his father abandoned him. Since then, Strong says the boy has maintained a solid relationship with the church and is trying to make peace with himself and his situation.

In the spirit of Martin Luther King, Strong says everybody can do something to help a child that doesn't have a parent. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. Strong and the church continue their work through outreach to mobilize mentors for young people.

Life Change Christian Center offers classes to help young fathers as well as single-moms.

A pastor at Life Change for 25 years, Strong said his passion is about making a difference in people.

"With any issue that's detrimental to people, altruistically you hope that it will go away, but that's not reality," said Strong. "Our goal is that if we can help one family, one child, one hurting adult, then we've made it."

PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Pastor Mark Strong is following in the path of Dr. Martin Luther King's belief in the beloved community by taking stewardship to the issue of fatherlessness. His Life Change Christian Center in north Portland offers classes to help young fathers as well as single-moms.

POINT A

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POINT BE

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