



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update April 2002

One of the highlights of the year for our discipleship series, *Taking Back Ground*, is the annual retreat. This past month participants and leaders traveled a snowy mountain pass to get to our destination, the Breakaway Lodge at Gearhart on the Oregon coast. It was a time to get away from life's pressures and be with the Lord. This year's emphasis was on relationships. Teachings and workshops focused on our God-given need to relate, as well as the obstacles we face in making healthy relational connections. By far, the most moving time we shared was during our Saturday night surrender ceremony. Participants were instructed before hand to ask God to show them something personal that symbolizes their struggle. During the ceremony each was given the chance to bring forward that object and explain its meaning. Then our leadership team prayed over that person. It was awesome to witness the moving of the Holy Spirit during these times. Spiritual chains were broken and hearts were freed to walk in a deeper level of devotion to Christ. And you cannot image what God prompted people to bring! It was truly a significant event in the healing process. Thanks to all of you who prayed for the Lord's protection and provision for us.



On **April 26th & 27th** we will be hosting an important educational conference, ***Homosexuality: A Compassionate Response***, featuring author **Dan Allender Ph.D.** The conference will offer a full slate of sessions, workshops, and personal testimonies—focusing on such topics as healing for the homosexual; root causes of homosexuality; biblical teaching on homosexuality; responding to pro-gay biblical, scientific, and cultural claims; and witnessing Christ's love in a "politically correct" culture. The conference is co-sponsored by **Sunset Presbyterian Church** in Portland and will be held at their facility. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear some great speakers as well as receive insight and encouragement in reaching out with the compassion of Christ. For more information call the office at 503.235.6364 or learn more about the conference and even register on line at www.portlandfellowship.com.

In this letter we begin the addition of a new feature in our communications with you. Over the years we have mentioned how important the work of our volunteer leadership team has been to the success of this ministry. In light of that, I will be introducing you to the various men and women who give of their free time to see that PF is effective. This month I want you to meet one of our long time teachers and overseer of the small group leaders, Craig Hamilton. After participating himself in the Taking Back Ground program, Craig stepped into working with the men in our TBG groups. His passion for Christ, and genuine desire to see men set free, has helped immensely in many individual lives. Craig is a faithful man, someone I can trust to carry out the work of the gospel. His wife, Rebecca has also been involved here

"He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners."

ISAIAH 61 : 1

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as well. Together they are one of the wonderful assets of the ministry family here. When asked what his favorite part in serving at PF was, Craig replied "One of the greatest joys of being involved in Portland Fellowship is seeing people in the process of being set free. To see them come cloaked in shame and self hatred, and then transformed in the knowledge that they are loved, accepted, and forgiven by their Heavenly Father. To see people come from a place of having a twisted view of God and a superficial relationship with Jesus, to a place of passionately walking with their Lord and Savior. The privilege of speaking "truth in love" in a setting that is non-condemning and supportive. To see people with the eyes of Jesus, that is to see the good in them and believe in a God who is big enough to pull them out of a life of sinful activity. To believe in others and God's redeeming power when they cannot believe in themselves or have the faith to believe in God. All these reasons and more bring to me a joy that I am a part of a leadership team who's goal is to see others walk in true freedom."



Craig & Rebecca Hamilton
serving PF since 1996

Thanks for your much needed prayers and financial support. We wouldn't be able to offer the level of hope and ministry we do without you.

In His service.



ministry update

Many young men and women continue to find Portland Fellowship and Exodus Youth, and are receiving support and encouragement through the many resources and hours of counseling we offer.

To offset ministry costs, we normally ask \$35/ hour for counseling, but for many students, affording this requested donation is difficult. Would you like to sponsor one or more student hours? Now you can!

We now offer different ways for you to support Portland Fellowship. Please go online; link to our secure site and find out how you can give toward the general needs, youth counseling, or even helping send out copies of 'the Map' to youth, and youth pastors!

We are now taking applications for the 2002-03 Leadership Development Program. There are only four spots available, so we encourage people to get their applications in quickly. Call the office or go online for additional information and for an application.

prayer requests

We ask for your prayers over the conference later this month. Pray for a great attendance and for the speakers to effectively communicate the message of compassionately responding to the issue of homosexuality.

We ask you to pray for the many parents who are calling confused and hurt because of the choices their children are making in their lives. If you are interested in praying specifically for these parents and for youth, sign up to be a valued prayer partner at:

www.exodusyouth.net

We have plans to print the *Taking Back Ground* workbook as well as continuing to develop more resources. Pray for continued generous donations to Portland Fellowship.

portland fellowship is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 non-denominational organization. We are exclusively supported through private donations, support services, and offerings. Thank you for your gifts.

april calender

april 1

Board Meeting

april 12

Parents, Spouses, Family, and Friends support group.
7 p.m.

april 2,9,16,23, 30

Taking Back Ground
Program for men and women finding freedom from homosexuality.
7 p.m.

april 4,11, 25

Leadership Development
Discussing legal issues, discipleship, and spiritual gifts 7 p.m.

april 26-27

Homosexuality: a compassionate response
Speakers: Dan Allender, Anita Worthen, & Paul Metzger.
Please call or register on-line.
www.portlandfellowship.com

Check website for additional updates throughout the month.