

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update December 2002



One thing is for certain in this life, we will all change. I recognize that as I see my hairline receding and sagging waistline. Those are the signs of aging. But God's word speaks about a change that is from glory to glory. Outwardly our bodies are wasting away, but inwardly we are being made like Christ. I can't help but think about change as we see autumn descend on us here in the Northwest. The change in colors and weather tell us that we must adjust to what lies ahead. Those outward signs are so visible. It's much harder to see the internal changes until you are met with a test. How much have I changed? When faced with a temptation, how will I respond? Or faced with opportunities to give back to God, will I be willing? With change comes choice. We can embrace hardship with the hope of Christ's work and grace within us and opportunity as a stepping stone to grow in Him.

"Mere change is not growth. Growth is the synthesis of change and continuity, and where there is no continuity there is no growth." C. S. Lewis

This past year has had elements of change for us. Staff changes; increased opportunities for ministry; goals met and new ones set; some hardships and disappointments. There is that sense of wonder as we seek God for what lies ahead. The words of Paul in Philippians 3:12 ring in my head, *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."* The continuity that C.S. Lewis speaks of that causes growth is that 'pressing' into God; knowing that He is the one who has a hold on us.

We are grateful for the wonderful people who work alongside us. PF is blessed to have a wonderful volunteer staff of men and women who tirelessly donate their time to see that the mission of Portland Fellowship is fulfilled. Ron comes in just about every day to do the administrative work in the office. Jane, David, and Coke work to see that our family and friends ministry continues. Chris, Andrew, Tara, Joanne, Lidia, Clint, Gene, Joe, Arlene, Heidi, RaeLynn, Rachelle, Ron, Kermit, and Jody all pour their hearts into leading small groups and teaching at the Taking Back Ground Tuesday night meetings. And throughout the year, countless individuals have helped out in getting the newsletters out, working on seemingly endless remodel projects, volunteering their skills in teaching our Upper Room class, providing much need support through intercession, and mowing the lawn. And the list goes on. How can we give back to those who believe in our cause and show it through their actions? No doubt, there are treasures being stored up in heaven.

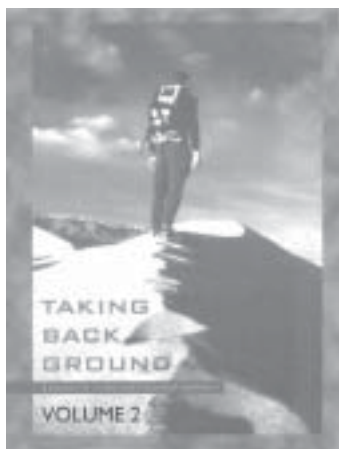
In the short time that the Taking Back Ground book has been available, we have had many inquire from ministries and churches. It is exciting to see that the resource, which took us literally five years to produce, is meeting the needs of other organizations. To make the workbook even more useful, we are including on our website instruction and valuable resource materials to aide with group implementation of the workbook.

A narrative of how the series is used, as well as links to the forms we use is now available online

"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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Taking Back Ground Volume 2,
to be released early 2003

for groups who purchase 10 or more copies of the workbook. Also, we now have the editor's copy of Volume II of TBG and hope to have it available in a few short months. We will keep you updated. Thanks to all of you who have been in prayer for the success of this endeavor.

The spring of 2003 will mark our 15th anniversary of official ministry as Portland Fellowship. It is awesome to see how faith, hard work and God's grace can take a burden and desire and create an oasis of healing. I know that there is so much more that can be done for the cause of Christ through this ministry. I want to challenge each one of you to prayerfully seek God as to how you can see us take PF to even greater spheres of influence. Your financial giving is crucial to our having the resources to pursue the call to speak the truth. I trust that God will provide for our and your every need. Thanks for the continued prayers and acts of love. It gives us the courage to 'press on' through adversity to serve with joy!

In His service,

merry christmas!

We at the Hobizal house would like express our thanks for the love and encouragement we've received this past year and extend to all a hearty Merry Christmas!

Phil Hobizal - Director

My wife Amy and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas.

We are both extremely grateful for your support and encouragement in all I do here at Portland Fellowship. May God bless you this coming year!

Jason Thompson - Co-Director

What a blessing it has been to serve the Lord this past year here at PF and we have been grateful for your prayers. Additionally, my husband Dale and I are looking forward to the blessing of celebrating our first holiday season as grandparents!

Rebecca Wade - Women's Ministry

My wife Angela and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you through administrative help as this is where God has gifted me. God bless.

Benjamin Brown - Administrator

thanks

Thank you Dr. Kaye Bruce, Ben Burns and Dr. John Wenrich for teaching our interns in the Upper Room Program.

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During the appreciation dinner we will have small gifts to give away. We want to thank Christian Supply and Eric and Rachel Murfitt for donating items to help us bless those who have served us.

prayer

Please continue to pray for our finances. Our desire, like all non-profit ministries, is to end the year in the black. Please prayerfully consider a year-end donation.

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January 7 begins the second section of the TBG series. We are already receiving applications. Pray for hearts and minds that are willing and ready to receive all God has for them this coming year.

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

december calendar

december 2

Board Meeting

december 3 & 10

Open Group

Every third month we have an evening open to anyone interested in learning more about PF and the Taking Back Ground Program.

Join us at 7:00 p.m.

december 7

Leadership Appreciation Dinner

The staff of PF will be treating our small group leaders, teachers and board members to a evening dinner at the Fellowship House.

december 13

Family and Friends

Evening of celebration.

Fellowship House: 7 p.m.

december 17

Taking Back Ground Dessert Potluck

Current and Alumni TBG participants are welcome 7-9 p.m.

Christmas Break

Office will be closed from

December 24 through January 2.

Check website for additional updates throughout the month.