



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update October 2002

October is the beginning of the busy season for us here at Portland Fellowship. As memories of a restful summer begin to fade, we put our hands to the proverbial plow and pick up the calling to preach Good News. Each day it seems that more and more people are being confronted with the reality of homosexuality in our culture. Family and friends are being challenged to know how to respond in Christ's compassion to hurt loved ones. And I can't tell you the number of times I've heard how grateful they are that we exist. And that is the direct result of those who love and support us. Without faithful friends who partner with us in ministry, we wouldn't have the resources to fulfill our mission. Thanks for being here for us!

Taking Back Ground begins this month as well as the Upper Room teaching series. We have a large group of individuals who will be going through this year's series of TBG. We are also faced with a few challenges. We have lost a few key members of our leadership team to various other commitments. That means that the responsibility to minister will fall in the hands of some of our newer leaders. While this will be stretching, I also see it as a wonderful opportunity for a few to grow into their gifting as teachers and facilitators. And the Upper Room will be offering workshops on Thursday nights, which will be open to the general public. This is a great chance to receive training in certain specialized areas that can benefit those wanting to grow in their Christian service. On October 24th, Dr. Kay Bruce will be giving her seminar, "Listening." I encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Each workshop will cost only \$10.



Dr. Kay Bruce is a professor at Western Seminary, a certified trainer for suicide intervention workshops, and Executive Director of Charis Counseling in Vancouver, WA.

In the aftermath of the tragedy of September 11th and the ensuing economic slump, Portland Fellowship has joined the ranks of those affected by a downward trend in giving. We have seen our individual giving drop significantly in the past months, prompting us to look at our operating expenses. Development Coordinator, Catherine Chapman, had taken the summer off and has decided not to return to work this fall (don't worry, it was for good reasons). We had planned to hire a replacement, but in light of our current financial situation, we are downsizing. The current staff will be dividing up the administrative tasks until we see some change in our situation. This could mean a slight delay in getting some of the things done around the office, but we will do our best to provide the best service possible. Please join us in prayer as we look at creative ways to lower our expenses. Also, we ask that you consider giving a one-time gift beyond your normal support to help offset a growing deficit. If you choose to help out, please earmark you donation with the words "operation catch-up". This will enable us to keep track of our progress.

"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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Jody and Raelynn Cox

We want to continue to highlight those who work as volunteers for us to let you know who really makes ministry possible. This month I want to introduce you to Jody and Rae Lynn Cox. They came to our ministry almost four years ago from New Mexico. We are blessed that they have decided to remain in Portland for a while. Their faithfulness in service has made working with them a delight. Both are involved as leaders in TBG. Here's what Jody had to say about his experience at PF: *"PF has been like an oasis of spiritual renewal in a desert of isolation and confusion. It's a place where I'm drawn into true worship and deeper relationship*

with God. It's a place of complete acceptance, tempered with frequent teaching and admonition to press on. It's a place where God and His Spirit are demonstrated in changed lives and in the prevailing message of healing and hope through Jesus Christ."

Thanks for your continued prayers and support.

In His service,



ministry update

In light of our financial condition, we are making a special effort to utilize volunteers around the office. Volunteer coordination usually requires a position of its own, but we will attempt to bypass this demand and create an easy and effective way to ask and receive help through email.

Each time we have a project, whether it is painting a room, stuffing newsletters, answering the phone, washing windows, mowing the lawn, or any of the other many needs around the office, we will send out an email to everyone on the "volunteer list".

For those who sign up to volunteer, you will simply get an email with the need, the time, and any other details of the job. You will then have the option of accepting or deleting the request.

This makes it easy for us and easy for you. One email to the whole list, and then first-come, first-serve (us).

Would you like to be on that list? *Agreeing to be on the list does not obligate you to volunteer.* If so, please call, email, or send back the response card with your email address - indicating that you are interested in being notified. Thank you!

thanks

Special thanks to all those who have already responded to our financial need. Your gifts are truly a blessings.

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Thank you Kelly for donating the DVD player to the Upper Room Leadership program. The interns are continuing to feel more at home because of gifts like yours.

prayer

As you have already read in Phil's letter, some donors have ended their support of Portland Fellowship. Please keep us in your prayers as we hope for more donors to come along side us.

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The 2002-2003 **Taking Back Ground** program begins again! Please pray for the participants as they grow closer to God and learn more about themselves.

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.

oct / nov calender

oct 7; nov 4
Board Meeting

oct 11; nov 8
Family and Friends support group.
Fellowship House: 7 p.m.

october 1,8,15,22,29
november 5,12,19,26
Taking Back Ground
A support program for men and women seeking freedom from unwanted homosexuality.
Tuesday evening 7:00 PM

october 10
AWARE: abstinence group
Vancouver, WA
presenter: Jason Thompson

oct 13
Mt. Park Church
presenter: Jason Thompson

Thursdays - Leadership training
october topics: listening, referrals, suicide prevention.
november topics: public speaking and preparing lessons.

Check website for additional updates throughout the month.