

Merry Christmas Friends:

update december 2003

This week, the Portland Fellowship staff and I are hosting a dinner to thank our small group leaders and board members. I look forward to this time each December. It's one small way that we extend thanks to these men and women who faithfully serve alongside us.

Last month, many of you received a special letter from me asking for your assistance. We have already received many responses to that letter. Thank you. This month, I want to share this urgent message with our entire mailing list in order to allow each one of you the same opportunity: As a committed friend of Portland Fellowship, you are no doubt aware of the unique opportunity before us to purchase Fellowship House from Hinson Church. What you may not be aware of are the stakes involved in this undertaking. Indeed, the opportunity to have a place of our own is rare for para-church ministries like PF who serve on the spiritual "frontlines" of battle and proclaim the biblical truth of Christ's transforming love and compassion for those who struggle with same-sex attractions.

Certainly the cultural tide is against us and God's truth on this challenging topic. While pro-gay organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign—with its \$20 million annual budget and staff of more than 100—achieve unprecedented success in the legislative and judicial arenas by diligently promoting an agenda contrary to God's created intent for human sexuality, most Exodus-affiliated ministries struggle to keep their doors open.

But we know from Scripture that God and His truth will ultimately prevail. God's heart is for the lost and hurting and He has raised up this ministry for such a time as this: to be a beacon of hope and light in a world engulfed in darkness. Indeed, God continues to use PF mightily in ministering to those He brings through the doors. Specifically, PF's leadership within the Exodus movement has been significant on regional, national, and international levels, and locally we offer valuable resources such as our *Taking Back Ground* program, which has benefited hundreds in their pursuit of sexual purity and discipleship with Christ.

In fact, did you know that the current number of TBG participants is the largest ever? In addition to ministering to men, women, and youth who struggle with homosexuality, Fellowship House is also the beloved home to Christian 12-step groups, a house church, and a parents and friends support group. Along with Hinson Church, PF stands out as "salt and light" in a neighborhood brimming with Buddhist temples and New Age philosophies.

Clearly, the stakes are high and this house purchase is a crucial component of our ability to carry out God's call for this ministry. Fellowship House is an easily accessible, centrally located safe place with functional meeting and office space—allowing us to effectively minister to current needs as well as plan for future growth in our program and service offerings. Moreover, the equity



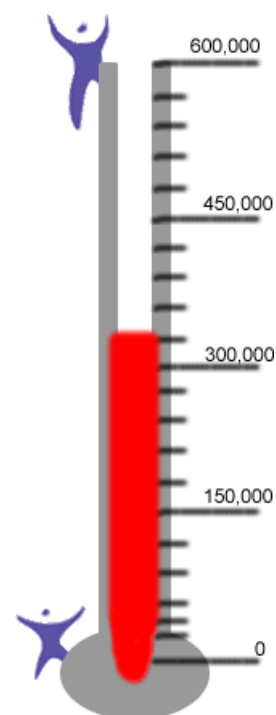
In 1993, this wonderful turn-of-the-century house became the home PF where it continues to be a beacon of hope in the Hawthorne neighborhood.

we will build over time will serve to financially strengthen this ministry for many years to come—helping to ensure our ongoing presence in the community.

Won't you join with us in this effort to buy Fellowship House? Specifically, we are asking that you consider making a special, year-end contribution toward the house purchase. As you know, we are working with both Hinson Church and the Murdock Charitable Trust to complete the transaction. All parties involved are committed to seeing us succeed in this important endeavor. But we also need your support as well in raising funds that will be matched by Murdock.

Here are the details: We have been renting Fellowship House for 10 years. Hinson is offering us the house for \$600,000, a very fair price for real estate in the Hawthorne area. To date, we have received financial pledges from donors amounting to \$133,000 and Murdock has tentatively pledged \$200,000. For planning purposes, we need to know this month if you can contribute to this project or pledge an amount for the coming year. **If you have not already, would you please return the response card regardless of your ability to give?**

Please know that your generous financial and prayer support for PF is deeply appreciated. Without committed and generous supporters like yourself partnering with us, our ministry could not be sustained. I realize we are asking you to give above and beyond what you have already given. However, the stakes couldn't be higher. Please join us in purchasing Fellowship House so that we can remain permanently in our ministry home. My staff and I pray that your family has a blessed and spirit-filled Christmas. We look forward to serving you in 2004.



Fellowship House Fund

Watch and contribute to the progress through our website: www.portlandfellowship.com.

In His Service,

Jason Thompson
Executive Director

december calender

december 1

Monthly Board Meeting.
Board members and staff: 7 p.m.

december 6

Leadership Dinner
Teachers, small group leaders and board members are invited to enjoy a meal, served by the staff of Portland Fellowship.
Evening begins at 6 p.m.

december 2, 9

Open Group
Every third month, we have an open time of sharing and question and answer. Please join us and invite a friend. 7 p.m.

On december 16, we invite all of you for a Christmas social. Please bring a finger-food item or dessert.
Tuesday 7 p.m.

december 12

Family and Friends Group
If you have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement and support,
Second Friday of each month: 7 p.m.

december 24 - January 6
Office will be closed for Christmas and New year. Merry Christmas!

Taking Back Ground Section 2
Begins January 7. Sign up today.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com
Contact office to schedule a speaker or for a personal appointment.

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.