



PORTLAND  
fellowship

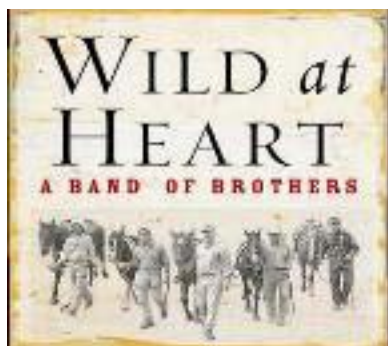
Dear Fellowship Partners,

update june 2003

This summer has several exciting events happening - beginning this month! On June 30<sup>th</sup> my wife and I are having our second child. Many of you know that our first child, Abigail, lived only three and a half months after she underwent heart surgery. Having fought hard, she tired out and went home to be with her Heavenly Father on February 4, 2001. Since then God has carried my wife and I through the valley of death to hilltops of joy and peace. Now, the coming birth of my son brings a reasonable amount of anxiety, but more so, joyous anticipation.

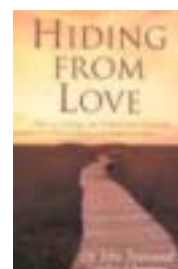
As fatherhood once again reappears, I reflect upon the awesome work of God in my life. I always dreamed of becoming a daddy, but at one time felt the issues I struggled with were too overwhelming - even for God. Years later, however, I can fully attest to God's Word when He proclaims, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..." (Ephesians 3:20).

Even though, I am extremely grateful for God's powerful work in my life, I am amazed and perplexed by those who do not hold to the same sentiment. Every so often I receive a phone call or an email that contains a message attempting to discredit the work of God in my life. In one recent email someone wrote, "You sound like a real piece of work, Jason." In just a brief moment I was confused, then angry, then defensive, then ambivalent, then confused again. As I let the email sit for an hour I began to think of the truth that "He who began a good WORK in me is faithful to complete it." Suddenly I saw this annoying anonymous email in a whole new light: Yes! I am a real piece of work... God's handiwork! I hit reply on my email program and typed, "Thanks!" I still have not heard back from him.



This summer's events will bring continuing evidence of God's faithful work in the lives of men and women coming to Portland Fellowship. Every summer we offer a video series that encourages and challenges. This year we are doing something slightly different. The men will be going through an 8-week "Wild at Heart" DVD series entitled "A Band of Brothers" by John Eldredge. Since this is an intensive program, commitment will be required. At the end of the series, for those who can make it, we plan to head out and experience adventure together by rafting the Deschutes River. This series has already attracted many people, so please sign up now.

For the women, Joanne McBride will be facilitating the 8- week video series "Hiding from Love" by Dr. John Townsend. Townsend writes, "When you experience emotional injury, fear, shame, or pride, your first impulse is to hide the hurting parts of yourself from God, others, and even yourself. Often, you've learned these hiding patterns during childhood to protect yourself in a threatening environment. The problem is that when you hide your injuries and frailties, you isolate yourself from the very things you need in order to heal and mature. What served as protection for a child becomes a prison to an adult. This series will help you to explore thoroughly the hiding pattern you've developed and guides you toward the healing grace and truth that God has built into safe, connected relationships with Himself and others."



"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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Please call the office or email to reserve your place at either of these programs. There will be a small cost involved for the workbooks that accompany the program along with any excursions. Both programs are on Tuesday evenings in July and August.

Last month we mentioned the upcoming conference, **Love Won Out**, put on by Focus on the Family. This dynamic one-day seminar comprehensively addresses the issue of homosexuality, from its effects on family and friends to its impact on our schools and culture. Conference speakers are experts in the field of homosexuality and gender identity, and include former gays and lesbians. Make plans now to join Focus on the Family at New Hope Community Church (11731 SE Stevens Rd., Portland, OR) on Saturday, June 21, 2003, from 8 am - 5 pm. The conference fee is \$40 in advance and \$50 for walk-up registration. To register, call 1-800-AFamily or go online at [www.lovewonout.com](http://www.lovewonout.com).



There is more in the works! Please pray for all these activities and for the months ahead. God is moving, we simply need to respond and stay in step with Him!

Serving Him with enthusiasm!

Jason Thompson  
Executive Director

### program updates

The 2002-03 **Taking Back Ground** program came to a close last month. It was another powerful year, giving evidence that God works in the lives of humble men and women.

For those returning for year 2 and for new participants, the 2003-04 series will begin October 7. We are now taking applications.

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The Upper Room Leadership Training also came to a close this year. Joanne and Lidia are excited about the ministry opportunities that lay ahead.

Joanne will be co-leading the Open Groups in June and will lead the video series for the women in July and August.

Lidia is working hard toward establishing a **Taking Back Ground** program in Spanish at Portland Fellowship for the coming year. The Year One Curriculum has already been translated and a team is being assembled. Look for the Spanish link on our webpage in the near future!

### thanks

**Taking Back Ground** would not be as effective without the help of our committed leadership team. Thank you... Clint, Ron, Andrew, Jody, Willis, Joe, Gene, Kermit, Arlene, Lidia, Joanne, Tara, Heidi, Bill, Colin, Craig, Kathy, Dick, Drew, Mike and the TBG prayer intercessory team!

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Thank you, Greater Portland Bible Church for increasing your monthly support!

### prayer

Jason and his wife Amy request your prayers for the arrival of their son who is scheduled to be delivered on June 30.

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Please pray for all our summer events.

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Please pray for the process of hiring ministerial staff to support the PF team.

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We ask for your prayers in ongoing financial support through the summer months.

**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.

### june calender

**June 2**  
*Board Meeting*

**June 7-13**  
*Women's ministry director, Rebecca Wade will be attending the Leanne Payne pastoral Conference. Wheaton, Illinois*

**June 3, 10, 17, 24**  
*Open Group*  
Every third month we provide an evening each week for sharing with one another and Q&A about the ministry. Please join us.  
*Tuesdays: 7:00 p.m.*

**June 13**  
*Family and Friends Group*  
If you have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want direction, encouragement and support,  
*Second Friday of each month: 7 p.m.*

**June 21**  
*Love Won Out Seminar*  
*Hosted by Focus on the Family*  
*New Hope Community Church*

*Check website for additional updates throughout the month*

[www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com).