



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update august 2004

We often think of summer as a time to “kick back,” relax and get re-charged for the coming work year. And while all of us on the PF staff are careful to take time off for family and personal renewal, the summer of 2004 is turning out to be very full of activity.

The ministry goes on. Our Open Groups in June were well attended, and welcomed several inquirers who have made application for the *Taking Back Ground* program that begins in October. We have more advance applications for this program than ever before in PF's history.

By way of video, Sy Rogers has made a return visit to PF. The series runs on Tuesday evenings in July and August. Over thirty gathered at Fellowship House for the first segment and the discussion that followed. When it was announced that Sy had agreed to return (in person) for the Spring Taking Back Ground Retreat (March 11-13, 2005) and for a citywide conference (April 1-3, 2005), a cheer went up.

A great program is coming back to life. Two of our *Upper Room Intern Program* participants are already in residence, with three or four additional interns scheduled to arrive by Labor Day. Jim Thompson, who is managing the program, has lined up some of Oregon and Washington's top instructors to work with the group. As well as participating in our regular ministry events, the interns will acquire skills for leading a para-church ministry, public speaking, lay counseling, and additional knowledge relevant to the work of “proclaiming liberty to the captives.” The interns will also be guided in personal, spiritual and vocational development during their nine months in Portland.

PF is working to extend its ministry. The staff is creating a teleconference format for family members and friends of strugglers where they may engage in dialogue and receive advice and mutual support over the phone. Many of the calls we receive are from folks in rural areas or cities where ministry resources are not available. Parents, for example, have driven across two states to come in for counseling. Our hope is that this new ministry will bring them hope and encouragement. The next *Fellowship Message* will announce the first session.

The house is being transformed. On any given day you can hear the banging of hammers, smell fresh paint, and see furniture in motion! The old butler's pantry is now a beautiful lending library. The main floor small group meeting room has been completely restored. Floors are being refinished or carpeted, and fresh paint is bringing old rooms and decks back to life. Drew Berryessa is proving good on his goal of having the house in top shape by summer's end, making it ready for *Upper Room*, *Taking Back Ground*, and the ongoing counseling ministries PF provides.

Public appearances and speaking engagements continue throughout the summer. PF was invited to be part of *Saturday in the Park*, a Vancouver, Washington, pro-gay gathering. As so often happens,



The staff of Portland Fellowship sharing an alternative message at a gay pride event in Vancouver, Washington

“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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the Lord used our quiet, unobtrusive presence to introduce several people to the message of freedom from unwanted desires and life patterns.

I have to add that this summer is unlike any other. As our new staff – Joann, Drew, Jim and I gather each week – as I consider the remarkable men and women who are coming to be interns – as I stand in awe of the incredible resources entrusted to us for this work – and mostly as I think of the many of you who support this ministry faithfully and lovingly – how can I not be awed by the mighty things God is doing? May God bless you this summer, even as he is richly blessing us.

Serving Him,



Jason Thompson
Executive Director

ministry letter

Portland Fellowship financially supports an Exodus related ministry in Quito, Ecuador. We recently received the following letter from them:

Greetings from Quito, Ecuador: We want to thank all of you at Portland Fellowship for your faithful gifts to our ministry *Camino de Salida* (The Way Out) We are very grateful not only for the financial help but also for the caring and support we receive from your ministry to ours.

We, the members of the steering committee, thank you for your gifts part of which has been used to purchase a new computer so that we can now be on e-mail with those who are seeking restoration for their sexual and emotional brokenness as well as producing very good quality materials for the sixth national conference we just had in the coastal city of Babahoyo.

May god bless you all there at Portland Fellowship and may your ministry bless many lives as well.

With love in Christ,
Betty Van Engen
Camino de Salida

thanks

for the refreshment and re-creation that summer brings.
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for the gifts of furniture and supplies for the Upper Room Intern Program.
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for the work God is doing in the lives of our newest participants.

prayer

for the safe arrival of our Upper Room Interns. They will be traveling from Alaska, Hawaii, and Missouri.
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for our friends at *Camino de Salida* in Quito, Ecuador.
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for the men and women who stopped by the Portland Fellowship booth at the gay event in Vancouver, Washington.
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for our small group leaders and teachers. Pray for safety and refreshment during 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.

august calender

august 1

Emanuel Bible Church
Speaker: Jason Thompson

august 2

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

august 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Sy Rogers Video Series
We invite anyone interested in viewing and discussing "Lessons Learned" by Sy Rogers to join us.
Tuesdays 7 p.m.

august 13

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.

september 1-2

Work party to prepare the house for the arrival of the Upper Room Interns.

We are taking applications for the 2004/05 TBG series. Please call the office for an application. Space is limited.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com