



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update february 2004

Many of you may recall our first year of interns in the Upper Room program. One of those interns, Drew Berryessa, came with a friend into my office in 1998 seeking direction and encouragement. Although God was already doing a work in his life, Drew needed a place where he could be honest and transparent - a place where his healing journey could continue.

Drew met with me for a few sessions then entered the *Taking Back Ground* series. As the year progressed, Drew continued to grow in maturity. After working through TBG, he signed up for the leadership training program which pushed all the appropriate "buttons" for continued growth.

It was a blessing to watch Drew grow in strength, direction, and courage. The fruit of his diligence and perseverance came when he met and began dating a young woman named Suzanne. My wife Amy and I had the honor of leading the two of them through premarital counseling and then to witness a powerful Christ-centered ceremony where God united them as husband and wife.

Drew's story is just one example of the many lives that have been impacted by this ministry. My friend Bill Dolan is another powerful example. Bill met me on a night when he needed the Lord the most. He walked through the process of receiving from the Lord with his arms opened wide. I had the pleasure of standing with him in his wedding and now am excited for him and his wife as they will be having their first child in May. Currently, Bill is our worship leader for *Taking Back Ground*, a ministry he offers with sensitivity and skill.

As we progress through another year of ministry, I cannot help but get excited at the things God is doing. The house purchase project, without a doubt, has been blessed by God. We accomplished our first goal to secure the house. Every day in the office brought excitement as we opened your envelopes. We were excited about the \$5,000 checks and we were excited about the \$5 checks. Thank you so much.

As we begin the second phase of the project, we are seeking a loan in the amount of \$180,000. Although we are pursuing this funding, according to plan, we continue to pray that God will provide the rest of the funds so we can lower the loan amount. Owning this home will free even more financial resources for the coming years. Please pray with us and continue to ask what the Lord may have you do.

As Portland Fellowship's ministry grows, so does the need for pastoral care. We have come to recognize the need for help with the *Taking Back Ground* program, and a new staff person with expertise in the areas of teaching and pastoral support. I have asked my father, Jim Thompson, to be that person. Not only does he have years of pastoral experience, but he brings evidence of God's restoring work in the restoration of the relationship between father and son.



Former Upper Room Intern, Drew Berryessa with his wife Suzanne. They were married January 9, 2004

"He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners."

ISAIAH 61 : 1

post office box 14841
portland, oregon 97293
telephone 503_235_6364
fax 503_235_3896
e-mail pf@portlandfellowship.com
portlandfellowship.com

Jim has shared with PF's Board of Directors his vision for the re-starting of the Upper Room Intern Program, and for a strengthening of the Family and Friends ministry. Those who have heard him teach know how he loves the work of sharing the message of God's healing. This addition to our modest staff will enable us to be more responsive to the personal needs of those who come to us seeking counsel, as well as to those in our ongoing programs. It is a pleasure and an honor to serve alongside by dad as we seek to minister to others.

I'm thankful for each of you. So many of you have faithfully stood beside the men and women who have needed a safe place to land in a confusing world. Your prayers, encouragement and support is invaluable.



Jason welcomes his father, Jim Thompson to help serve the needs of Portland Fellowship.

Serving Him,

Jason Thompson
Executive Director

ministry update

We continue to have growth in the *Taking Back Ground* group. There are 66 people involved and more continue to call. The need is great and the workers are few, but God continues to sustain us in all that we do.

The Portland Fellowship's Board of Directors and staff spent a day together for our annual planning meeting. Each staff member gave a report on the past year. In the afternoon we set our goals for 2004.

In the fall we will be offering the Upper Room Leadership Training Program. We are inviting 4-6 men or women to spend a year at Portland Fellowship and learn the process of serving in redemptive ministries. Stay tuned to the newsletter and the website for further details.

Every year we host a retreat for *Taking Back Ground* participants. If you are an alumni and would like to attend, please call the office.

thanks

Again, Thank you to all those who contibuted toward helping us purchase the Fellowship House.

We are encouraged by the following churches that support us monthly: Rolling Hills Community Church, Calvary Chapel SE, Cedar Mill Bible Church, Prince of Peace, First Church of God - Vancouver, First Baptist Church of Gladstone, First Covenant Church, Gospel of Peace, Greater Portland Bible Church, and Harvest Community Church.

prayer

Please pray for Bill and Jody Dolan and the upcoming arrival of their first child.

Continue to pray for the men and women who come to *Taking Back Ground* as well as the leaders who serve them. Pray protection, wisdom and guidance over them.

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.

february calender

february 2
Monthly Board Meeting.
Board members and staff: 7 p.m.

february 20
Multnomah Bible College
Psychology Course
Speaker: Jason Thompson

february 7, 14, 21, 28
Taking Back Ground
Discipleship program for men and women seeking freedom from same-sex attractions.
Tuesday's 7 p.m.

Note: Taking Back Ground has been extended into the first week of March due to a day missed because of the snow.

february 10
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.

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