

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update june 2004



PORTLAND
fellowship

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” —Romans 8:28

The cover of my journal pictures a path with a beautiful rose arbor inviting the passerby into the delightful garden beyond. Ever since moving to Oregon almost 7 years ago, I have been enthralled with all the gardens here and the variety of flowers, trees, and vegetation that thrive here. It also has been interesting to experience the changing seasons. They look much different than what I was accustomed to growing up in Alaska. This year, in the Pacific Northwest, we were delighted with an unusually sunny and warm spring. Glorious days of flowering trees, tulips, daffodils, and spring asparagus filled us with anticipation of summer. Spring is the season of promise and beginning. As the bulbs fade, summer is ushered in with roses and summer picnics. And finally, autumn in all its glory arrives. But, eventually winter must come. It is the season of rest for both gardens and gardeners alike.

The cycle of seasons are not unlike the cycle of life. There are seasons of great energy, promise and productivity. But there are also seasons of renewal and rest. Following a time when the apostles had been busy teaching, healing the sick and casting out demons they reported back to Jesus all that they had done. His response to them was, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” I certainly couldn’t begin to compare my kingdom work with the apostles; nevertheless, the Lord has recently spoken those same words to me! “Come with me”—an invitation to cease from the doing and the just be with Him! “And get some rest”—again an invitation from the Lord that is meant to benefit me. And so, trusting He knows what is best, I have resigned my position here at the Portland Fellowship. Sadly, it is time for me to say good-bye.

Of course this decision has its share of grief attached to it. Saying goodbye to people I love and care about is difficult. This ministry is dear to me. Seeing the kingdom of God advance in other people’s lives has been exciting! I have felt tremendously honored to be entrusted with the confidences and discipleship of the women who come to PF. However, although I like spring better than winter, I know that there is purpose in winter. I am confident that God has purpose, both for me personally and for others, in the upcoming season. I am also confident that it is just a season. It too will pass. “Spring” will come again. But, until then, I enter my winter of rest with an expectant and grateful heart, knowing that God’s purposes both for me personally, and for the ministry here at PF will prevail in the seasons to come.



Rebecca Wade with the Taking Back Ground leadership team. She will be missed!

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

ISAIAH 61 : 1

In Him,

Rebecca Wade

Continue on back

post office box 14841

portland, oregon 97293

telephone 503_235_6364

fax 503_235_3896

e-mail pf@portlandfellowship.com

portlandfellowship.com

Rebecca will be missed – missed by the women for whom she has been such a Christ-like counselor, by all our participants, for which she has been a favorite teacher, and missed by me, for whom she has been a sister in Christ and an encouraging colleague.

Much has changed at PF in the past four years, and staff transitions have sometimes been the most challenging changes of all. Rebecca has been for me a fun co-worker (*and a little fun is important at times in ministry this intense*), she has challenged me, and she has consistently reminded me and the other staff of the importance of being obedient to the Lord. It is this obedience that now takes her into a season of rest and discernment about her future.

We have a people-first philosophy here at PF, which means that we won't just try to "fill the slot". Our ministry depends upon the people whom God sends to work among us. So we may find ourselves employing someone with a slightly different set of gifts as we consider the future of our women's ministry. Pray that we, too, will be obedient to the Lord as we take this next step.

Meanwhile, we'll miss Rebecca a bunch. We hope the Lord brings her back to us from time to time to share her wonderful gifts.

Serving Him,



Jason Thompson
Executive Director

ministry update

It was an incredible moment, signing the documents that made PF the owner of Fellowship House! God has so wonderfully provided a home for this ministry.

Our gratitude continues for the Murdock Foundation's significant gift, and for the help and generosity of Hinson Church. It's ours now, and we will be doing some minor remodeling and beautification. Pray that we always be good stewards of this amazing gift!

Three men and one woman have been selected for the Upper Room Intern program, with the expectation that one or two more may be chosen after interviews at the Exodus International Conference in July. Host families are needed. We ask our host families to help with welcoming and orientation to the city, and an occasional night out during the program year. Contact Jim at PF if you are interested.

During July and August, we will offer a Sy Rogers video series on Tuesday evenings. Discussion, prayer and fellowship will follow the video. Call PF for more details. (No registration required, but a voluntary offering will be accepted.)

thanks

A special thanks to TBN for allowing Portland Fellowship to share on your morning program. Several have contacted the ministry with a newfound hope.

thank to our intercessory prayer team who has faithfully prayed for the *Taking Back Ground* participants all year.

again, to all who made possible the purchase of Fellowship House, and to those who are helping us reduce the mortgage

prayer

for our 14 Taking Back Ground graduates as they launch out beyond the weekly support of the program.

for those participating in our summer programs.

for our Upper Room interns, as they prepare to move to Portland.

for our dear friend, Rebecca Wade. Pray God's blessing and direction on her life in the coming year.

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 4

TBG Leadership Dinner
Appreciation and celebration of a year spent together.

june 7

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

june 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Open Group Meeting
We invite anyone interested in learning more about the ministry, sharing their story, or simply listening to others to join us.
Tuesdays 7 p.m.

june 11

Family and Friends Group
If you have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement and support,
This month's presenter: PF Director, Jason Thompson
Second Friday of each month: 7 p.m.

Please let us know if you would like to join us for the Sy Rogers Video Series during the month of July and August. All are welcome!

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com