



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update August, 2005

Each month, we share powerful testimonies and ministry updates that I pray are encouraging to you. These newsletters attempt to report God's work in the lives of our participants as well as give you a glimpse of what happens in this unique ministry. This month, however, I'll digress a bit and share about those who serve the participants: my exceptional staff.

To begin with, I want you to know that my comments are entirely biased. I not only like my staff as people, I love them dearly. This does not mean I'm completely blind to their deficits, as we all have them, but I'm very proud of their strengths and passion for God, for others and for this ministry.

Catherine Chapman came on staff this past March. She landed herself in a difficult situation requiring the re-shaping of the women's ministry. It was not easy, yet Catherine sought the Lord for wisdom and strength. Her support outside the ministry includes her husband Chuck, as well as a mentor that is giving her encouragement and direction. All her perseverance is paying off. The women's ministry is becoming well-defined and Catherine is enjoying the fruit of her labor.

Jim Thompson, affectionately known as dad, jumped in head first as the *Upper Room* Manager. It was a real joy to have my dad minister alongside me. For many years I've had a desire to have my dad get a front-row view of the work I do. I never imagined he would be in the ring with me. We have the most interesting debriefings on a daily basis, conversations that do not normally happen between father and son. I must admit it's fascinating.

Drew Berryessa has amazed me. I watched Drew go through the first *Upper Room* program and secretly thought he would do well in this type of ministry, but had a way to go. Over the past year, Drew has grown wonderfully. He not only runs most of the daily operations, he leads worship for the *Taking Back Ground* program, helps teach, leads groups, and disciples young men. Along with all this, he is fun to have around the office and is a great encouragement to the staff and interns. An added bonus is his wife Suzanne. She is not only a great encouragement to Drew; she serves on Tuesday evenings in the *Taking Back Ground* program. Suzanne loves the women who come to PF and it shows in her commitment.

Finally, I'm happy to add a new part-time helper. With the vacations and conferences that crowd the summer months, Steve Baliko has agreed to "hold down the fort" while the staff is unable to be in the office. Steve has jumped right in after finishing this past year's Intern Program and is doing a great job keeping in touch with the many that are connecting with Portland Fellowship. If you call the office this summer, say "Hi" to Steve.

At the end of June, Catherine, Jim, Drew, and I attended a Pastoral Care Ministries Conference in Wheaton, Illinois. The conference was good, and God ministered in each of our hearts in very different ways. But the most enjoyable part of the week for me was connecting with my staff. We shared about the spiritual attacks that attempt to throw us off,

"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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some of the difficulties in our personal lives, and the joy of being a part of the incredible work of God at Portland Fellowship.

I am so privileged to have a fun and effective staff. I consider them comrades in the work we do as well as personal friends. I'm thankful we are a tight team which encourages and supports one another. The yearly programs and daily activities require us to be strong and determined in the call God has for us.

Thank you, my friends for your continued support of PF. Your investment is directly changing lives and we are all grateful for it. God's blessings!



Jason Thompson
Executive Director



One of the highlights of the Wheaton trip was visiting the Wade Center, which houses among other things C.S. Lewis's desk, some of his original works, and even the hand carved wardrobe which served as an inspiration for "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"

Here we go again...

Every year at this time there is a sense of anticipation and excitement that fills Fellowship House. Although summers around here are traditionally more low key than the normal pace, August has a distinctly different feel. It is kind of like the quick breath you take before jumping off a high dive.

Soon this quite building will be filled with the sounds of six new interns settling into their rooms, with the sounds of praise and worship as men and women come before God to present to Him their broken lives, and the sounds of prayer and confession as small groups fill almost every open space in this old building...and just as there is every year, there will be the sound of the quiet, still voice of God speaking healing, restoration, affirmation, forgiveness and new identity into the lives of those who come. It is an exciting time around here.

prayer

for our staff as we begin to plan for the next year of *Taking Back Ground* and *The Upper Room Intern Program*. Pray that we will know the will of our father as we structure the upcoming programs.

for our new interns as they prepare for the upcoming year. Many have several challenges to face as they make their way to Portland.

for our participants who are dealing with HIV-AID's and especially one alumnus who is critically ill.

for those who have served as small group leaders and who will be taking some time off this year to refresh their spirits and rest.

for those who will be attending *Taking Back Ground* this next session, that they would be open and receptive to God's leading and redemption.

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events calender

august 1
Monthly Board Meeting

august 8 - 12
Church of God Camp Meeting
The staff of Portland Fellowship has been invited to share during the morning sessions.

aug 12
Family and Friends Group
For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement and support.
Second Friday of each month: 7 p.m.

sept 5
Intern Welcome
The staff will host a dinner for the arriving interns,

sept 6, 13, 20, 27
Leadership Training
Small group leaders, teachers and interns will spend time together preparing for the new year of TBG. This time will be facilitated by PF staff.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com