

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update February 2005



It's been wonderfully busy. The programs are at capacity; the intern program is humming along; and there have been a record number of speaking engagements. It would seem enough just to keep everything going at this very satisfying pace.

But – obviously – if the program is full, and if more people than ever are asking for information and encouragement, then PF needs to learn how the Lord wants us to grow into the future.

Each year, our board and staff spend a day together to look at the state of the ministry and plan for the future. I look forward to these meetings. They give us a chance to step out of the action – get above it all – and see the larger picture. (And thanks to the Murdock Foundation, we really did get above it all, enjoying the view from their beautiful boardroom in downtown Vancouver.)

We have drafted a plan for the next five years. Some of the items are already in preparation; others need more prayer and study. This provides us a vision of how the ministry can grow in its effectiveness in bringing God's healing to the sexually broken. Here's what we're looking at:

- Begin an annual Pastor's Luncheon (*first one this March 15*).
- Get *Taking Back Ground* published in Spanish
(*The translation is done; we need funding for the printing costs.*)
- Find a way to offer *Taking Back Ground* to more people
(*We're at capacity for small group meeting space.*)
- Assist one of our interns in establishing a national Deaf Ministry
(*Matt, an Upper Room Intern, will be spending a second year at PF.*)
- Re-issue *The Map* in a captioned version for the Deaf and for Spanish-speakers
(*Our supplies of this popular product are nearing depletion.*)
- Develop a Family and Friends "road show"
(*to reach communities outside the Portland area.*)
- Begin a Women's Mentoring Project
(*Joanne has already begun the design phase.*)
- Develop a Youth Program
(*being designed by our staff and interns.*)
- Create and publish a Sexual Misconduct Prevention Manual
- Create and publish a Ministry Start-up Guide for our interns and for other ministries.
- Publish a resource for wives of strugglers with homosexuality
- Celebrate 20 years of ministry in 2008
- Retire the mortgage on Fellowship House, freeing funds for additional ministry

In addition, each of us on the staff laid out our personal goals for continuing education. I hope to take a sabbatical in the summer of 2006, about the same time I finish my Masters degree. Joanne will be working on an Master of Divinity degree, and Drew on a Bachelor's degree. Jim looks forward to retirement at the end of the fifth year (then we get him for free!).

A particularly interesting idea is for PF to host a sabbatical program for ministry directors in the summer of 2008. Portland is a beautiful place to visit, and a time of refreshment, learning and encouragement could be a special offering for our brothers and sisters across the country.

"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

Everyone needs such visions and goals. As I returned from our Annual Meeting I came back into the reality of the everyday. And such reality! Last month we had to replace the sewer line which had been penetrated by tree roots (about \$2,000), repair our sidewalks (about \$2,000) and replace our phone system (only \$1,000 on this). And did I mention the wiring? But all these little joys of home ownership remind us of God's faithfulness – and yours. These are good days for PF, when we can work at full capacity, yet dream and work for a larger ministry in the days to come.



Digging up our sewer line and repairing the sidewalks on the same day

All of us are so grateful for your partnership in this work.


 Jason Thompson
 Executive Director

remembering leonard

It was not Leonard's only distinction that, at 82, he was the oldest participant in *Taking Back Ground*. This gentle soul was distinguished among us for his beautiful transparency, his constant encouragement of us, and his obviously deep walk with God.

Leonard's last night was spent at Portland Fellowship. After being with us for a full evening, Leonard showed signs of grave weakness. He was taken directly to a local hospital where he died the next morning of heart failure.

Carol, his wife, told us that she was so pleased that he was at PF when the end came. "He loved it – he loved you guys. This meant everything to him."

Leonard's overt struggle with homosexuality was in his early years. But over the decades that followed, many of them in service as a pastor, he felt an unfinished business with himself and with God. When he applied for the program last year he said, "I want to be right with God about this."

Leonard's last night was one we will long remember. As usual, he had an encouraging word for many of us. Acutally, he spoke to all of us, as he always did with his quiet presence.

thanks

to Bryan Velkinburg for updating our computer systems by creating an internal server.

Special thanks to Steve Hotra, John Paulk, and Dr. Kay and Paul Bruce for their gifts of instruction to the Upper Room Intern program.

prayer

for Carol, that she will have God's consolation upon the loss of her dear husband Leonard.

for our interns as they undertake the most challenging part of the program year.

for our participants who are dealing with HIV-AID's and especially one alumnus who is critically ill; and for God's help as we begin a new support group for those facing this difficult reality.

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.

events calender

february 7
Monthly Board Meeting

february 1, 8, 15, 22
Taking Back Ground Series
 Discipleship program for men, women, and wives impacted by same-sex attraction. 7 p.m.

february 11
Family and Friends Group
 For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement and support. The February meeting will include an audio presentation prepared by intern Joshua Kilpatrick followed by separate discussions for our men and women.
Second Friday of each month: 7 p.m.

february 3, 10, 17
 During February our interns will be learn from board member, John Shafe about relating to donors. Other topics during the month will include writing for ministry and publications & publicity.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com