



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update October 2005

One of the most exciting aspects of living the Christian life is having a front row seat to view God's unfolding plan. I've had plenty of opportunities to see God accomplish his will in both natural and supernatural ways, and it is always amazing. Sometimes He surprises us with gifts. Other times He reveals his plan by placing it in our hearts and inviting us to prayer and generosity.

One Thursday afternoon in 1991, I went to talk with Phil Hinzal, the founder of PF. We met at the office located in the Hinson Annex to talk about my involvement on the ministry team. It was a beautiful day, so we decided to take a walk around the neighborhood. We went no more than a block when Phil stopped, looked up at a big run-down house, and said, "See that house Jason. I believe God wants Portland Fellowship to have this house and I'm praying God will give it to us." I remember chuckling, thinking Phil was just a big dreamer.

He was a dreamer and I am extremely grateful for it. What seemed like an impossibility came to reality when Hinson invited us to rent the house for only \$600 a month! I remember moving in. It was exciting and somewhat overwhelming. The house was a mess. One person was living in the 5,200 square foot home and seemed to be moving from room to room as he messed them up. We had to clean the rooms, pull up orange shag carpet, take down florescent lighting, and slap gallons of paint on the walls. It was well worth it.

Over the years, the house continued to be transformed. We restored the floors, renovated the rooms, and put a lot of tender loving care into the house. Hinson restored the roof, the siding, and gave the exterior a miraculous



Extreme Makeover: Portland Fellowship Edition

face life. The third floor, which had become a graveyard for over a hundred pigeons, was turned into beautiful living quarters for four interns. I look at old pictures and hardly recognize the place.

In 2003, Hinson came to us with the offer to purchase the house. We were now in the process of undergoing our largest fundraising project to date. I was excited and a bit overwhelmed, but Phil's words reminded me that God desired us to have the house. Through the generous support of the Murdock Charitable Trust, special private donors, supporting churches, and the many who pray and support PF each month, we succeeded in raising the amount needed to call this place our own.



Pre-renovation pigeon mourage

The current chapter of the story of God's gift to Portland Fellowship begins with wonderful news. **The Northwest Christian Community Foundation is offering a challenge grant of \$100,000 to help retire the debt of the house.** What a wonderful opportunity! By meeting this challenge gift, we will be able to retire our mortgage and free up over \$1,000 a month for ministry purposes. We also will undertake some renovations in the house to improve safety and realize energy savings for years to come.

"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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Two years ago, PF's faithful supporters quickly responded to the need to buy this house by matching the Murdock Foundation grant. God has given us an opportunity to respond once again to a generous gift. Will you join me in accepting this challenge? The enclosed response card can be used to designate your gift by marking it "Fellowship House".

This is such an amazing place. Visitors, especially those who struggle with homosexuality, often say the house brings them peace and a sense of safety. We who work here know it as an ideal place for counseling, teaching, and operating our intern program. It's not just a matter of architecture; it's a matter of the heart – the hearts of countless supporters who have so generously given, bringing our hopes – and God's plan – to reality. This is truly exciting.



More than a house : A beacon of hope

Jason Thompson
Executive Director

additional support

Friends and Family

On the second Friday of each month, our Family & Friends group meets to offer one another mutual support. A portion of the October 14 meeting will be given to Steve Baliko who will address the topic "Root Causes of Same-sex Attraction". On November 11, Catherine Chapman will discuss "Emotional Dependency". The meetings begin at 7 p.m. All are welcome, especially those who have loved ones affected by homosexuality.

HIV Group

Portland Fellowship is pleased to offer a safe, supportive group for men living with a (+) HIV diagnosis. The focus of the group is not on a disease. Rather, our time is spent investing in each other's lives, sharing the support we have received from Christ, providing encouragement at times of frustration and collecting information and resources for ourselves and others. The group is open to current members of the PF community as well as alumni. Please feel free to speak to any of the staff members for more information on how to get involved with our weekly meetings.

prayer

Please pray for:

Our new and returning participants, that God will bring them into healing beyond their expectations.

Our participants who are dealing with the reality of HIV in their lives, for God's healing and peace.

Our *Upper Room* Interns as the program goes into full swing.

Our staff, for God's protection of our hearts as we deal with the brokenness of those who come to this place.

In thanksgiving, for our new and returning *Taking Back Ground* leaders, and for many new participants.

In thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus our Lord, who comes with his healing, joy and peace.

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 calendar

october 4, 11, 18, 25

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

october 6, 13, 20, 27

Upper Room Internship Program
PF interns will be learning a variety of ministry skills this month, including learning / teaching styles, suicide prevention and small group dynamics.

october 14

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.

october 21

A.W.A.R.E.
Jason will be speaking in to an abstinence training seminar: 9 a.m.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com