



**PORTLAND**  
fellowship

**Dear Fellowship Partners,**

**update April 2006**

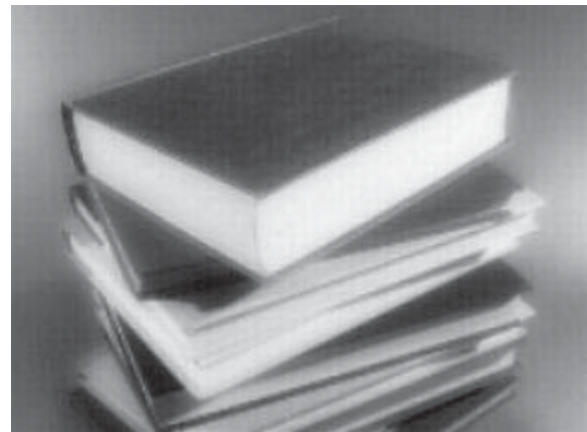
I'm an experiential learner. I don't want to hear about the Eiffel Tower; I want to climb it. I don't want to theorize about ministry; I want to live it. The classroom setting has always taken second place to the 'lab' of life. Yet I see the importance of the academic environment that has offered me valuable tools to live out my passion and dream to ministry to the needs of others.

Over the past 15 years, I carried out the decision to work in ministry while continuing my Education. I started at Multnomah Bible College where I earned a degree in Christian education and then to Western Seminary to earn a Masters in Counseling. I am pleased to share with all of you that my formal education is coming to a completion! On April 28, I will be taking that short but satisfying walk across a stage to shake a hand and collect my diploma. It will be a great day since I have hardly known life without school.

Although there is still much to learn, I am amazed by the noticeable difference in how I counsel because of the tools and insight others have passed on to me. I am grateful for instructors such as Dave Wenzel, Sandy Wilson, and Kay Bruce who have contributed a wealth of knowledge to me and so many others. I am also grateful for my wife, Amy, who supported me in the juggling of my schedule, the late night reports, and hours of study. Anyone who has been in school and had a family knows the difficulty of balancing the two.

Many have asked if I will now be going into private practice or work for a counseling center after graduating. The answer has remained the same. The purpose of schooling was simply to do better with what God has asked me to do at Portland Fellowship. I cannot express how incredible it is to serve on the front lines of God's work of transformation. It shows up in the day to day calls, emails, and counseling appointments as well as the annual events.

In March, the participants and leadership team of *Taking Back Ground* went to Breakaway Lodge, in Gearheart Oregon for a powerful weekend with the desire to deepen our relationship with God. Our time included fellowship, teaching, and surrender. Saturday night's surrender service proves to be a life-changing occasion for so many. It is a moment of time when a solid commitment of a person's will aligns with the will of God. Some surrender a behavior that has caused nothing but difficulty. Some surrender a relationship that the heart has never let go. And others surrender an identity that once felt secure but now feels like a weight. This is a significant part of their healing journey. Please join me in prayer that whatever was surrendered will stay at the foot of the cross. Some will be tempted to take back the very thing they laid down. We pray that they will stand firm in the truth and be empowered by the Spirit of our God.



"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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Special thanks to our speakers Dan and Jody Mayhew for spending the weekend with us and for members of the Family and Friends group all the kitchen work that truly blessed us throughout the weekend.

We are just a few days away from the seminar “Homosexuality and Truth” with author, counselor, and speaker, Joe Dallas. The staff and interns have been working hard at informing churches and colleges about this very important seminar. As I shared in last month’s newsletter, there are different ways to respond to the issue of homosexuality. Our hope is that Christians statewide will come to Cedar Mill Bible Church on Saturday April 8, to take full advantage of this opportunity. We will all learn from a man who has lived as a gay man, promoted gay theology, but then, touched by the truth of God, was transformed into a man of God. I don’t know of anyone that is better qualified to communicate truth with compassion, mercy, and grace.

If you would like more information or would like to register, please give the office a call or visit our website at [www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com). We look forward to seeing you there.



Jason Thompson  
Executive Director

### can you help?

In one of our previous newsletters we mentioned the sounds of PF. The fact that on a tuesday, this old house is filled with the sounds of praise, worship, prayer, confession and encouragement...all of us on staff find great joy in those sounds. There is, however, one sound that does not illicit joy in our hearts...it is the sound of our copy machine...which breaks down on what seems to be a weekly basis. This is where we could use your help. If anyone has, or knows of someone who has, a newer, more reliable copier they would like to donate to the ministry, we would greatly appreciate it!

Also, on May 20th PF will be hosting a fundraising dinner at OMSI, with the purpose of introducing new potential supporters to the work we do. If you would be interested in attending or inviting a friend please contact the office.

### prayer

*Please pray for:*

Our retreat participants, that God will help them walk in the new measure of freedom they have obtained.

Our *Taking Back Ground* participants, especially our second-year folk as they approach completion of the program.

Our *Upper Room* Interns as they consider employment and ministry opportunities following completion of the program next month.

Our seminar “Homosexuality and Truth” That God will be glorified and that all who need to attend will be there.

In thanksgiving for God’s countless blessings on us, and especially for our freedom from bondage to sin.

**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

**april 4, 11, 18, 25**  
*Taking Back Ground Series*  
Discipleship program for men, women, and wives impacted by same-sex attraction. 7 p.m.

**april 8**  
*Homosexuality and Truth*  
Portland Fellowship will be presenting a one day Joe Dallas seminar. 9am-4:30pm @ Cedar Mill Bible Church

**april 13**  
*Concordia University*  
Jason will be speaking in a class.

**april 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.*

Check website for additional updates at [www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com)