



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update February 2006

Sometimes you can't make plans fast enough to keep up with God!

Early in the new year, PF's board and staff met together for our annual planning meeting. It is important for us to develop goals and objectives for the upcoming years, and to evaluate our progress on a regular basis. We began by reviewing last year's Five-Year Plan. It became obvious that God is blessing us beyond our expectations.

Our plan was to pay off the mortgage on Fellowship House by 2008. As of this writing, our house is debt free, two years ahead of schedule. The mortgage holder even excused the early-payoff penalty! God's provision in this way allows us to apply all our gifts to the operating expenses of the ministry, that is-- people ministering with people and materials put into the hands of those in need.

As we have said on many occasions, this house is perfect for our ministry – for worship, meetings, our residential interns, for counseling and even for our celebrations. This is a safe, welcoming, comfortable place. God has provided it miraculously, through the generous hearts and willing hands of our friends. Thank you!

We are growing faster than we anticipated. Currently, every *Taking Back Ground* group is filled to capacity. At the same time, God is providing us the teachers, group leaders, and intercessors required to care for so many men and women coming for help. We are blessed with the largest leadership team in PF's history, and are always seeking out and preparing additional leaders.

We had projected a new program for 2008 – a summer sabbatical for Exodus ministry leaders from across the country. Our dream is to use this beautiful facility, together with Oregon's many opportunities for recreation and our staff to provide some personal restoration and enrichment to others who do this taxing work. It now looks likely that we will run a pilot program for two weeks this August, two years ahead of our projection.

The PF community has always been impacted by the reality of HIV/AIDS in the lives of some of our people. Last year, we were able to begin a support group for those whose lives are made difficult by the presence of this disease. While various support systems exist in the larger community – indispensable for most with AIDS – there remain unmet needs, especially felt by Christians and those struggling with faith issues. Our five-year plan now shows a new program, *Living Well*, beginning in 2008. This is a ministry we have chosen to undertake with the greatest possible sensitivity to those we would serve, and with the constant leading of the Holy Spirit.

There is much more in our plan. *Reach Truth*, a new resource being developed that will assist young people and their mentors in working through the confusion and shame of same-sex attraction. We are exploring ways to provide additional individual counseling for the participants of *Taking Back Ground*. The Spanish translation of our two-year curriculum materials. And we will be assisting some of our graduating interns in establishing ministries as God leads them.

Our long-range vision includes an abuse recovery ministry, an on-line version of *Taking Back Ground* and an alumni program.



“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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God has lifted our vision to embrace new opportunities. I am fond of saying that PF grows *organically* – that is, we grow person-by-person. If we are to assist more hurting people, we must cultivate new leaders. If we are to enlarge our response to those affected by homosexuality who are seeking our help, we must cultivate new friends and supporters.

The board, staff and I are taking the initial steps to organize an event that will gather our friends (those able to come to Portland – our friends are nationwide) and will welcome new persons to participate by gift and prayer in this life-changing work. Please look for details in the next *Fellowship Message*.

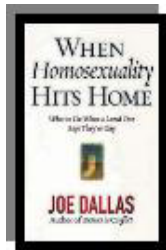
You can also look forward to information about our Spring Conference on April 8. It will be our great privilege to welcome Joe Dallas, author of a number of books including *A Strong Delusion* and *Desires in Conflict* to give a presentation on the topic “Homosexuality and Truth.” Joe is a powerful speaker with a huge heart for the hurting.

If there is any little frustration I have will all this activity and growth, it is that I do not always have the opportunity to thank everyone in person or often enough for all that is given in support of this ministry. My staff and I are profoundly grateful for your faithfulness to God, to us, and to all whom we serve. Above all, we are grateful to God, who has called us together for the work of “binding up the brokenhearted.” May he bless you bless you.



Jason Thompson
Executive Director

When homosexuality hits home



The heart-wrenching declaration that a loved one is a homosexual is increasingly being heard in

households across America. How can this be? What went wrong? Is there a cure? In this straightforward book, Joe Dallas offers practical counsel, step by step, on how to deal with the many conflicts and emotions parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters or any family member will experience when learning of a loved one's homosexuality. Drawing from his own experience and from his many years of helping families work through this perplexing and unexpected situation, Joe offers scriptural and compassionate advice to both struggling gays and those who love them.

prayer

Please pray for:

Our new and returning participants, that God will bring them into healing and hope 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 they continue to grow throughout the program.

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

Our *Taking Back Ground* leaders, that God would give them strength and an enduring knowledge of His love.

In thanksgiving for the gift of this amazing house!

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

february 7, 14, 21, 28

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

february 3

A.W.A.R.E.

Jason will be speaking in to an abstinence training seminar. 9 a.m.

february 3

Multnomah Bible College.

Jason will be speaking to a psychology class.

february 3

Chinese Baptist Church

Drew will be speaking to the youth group. 7 p.m.

february 10

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