



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update June 2006

How do you put a completely confidential ministry on a television news program? *Why would you put a completely confidential ministry on a television news program?*

Let's take the last question first. Portland Fellowship has been given many opportunities over the years to get our message before the public through national and local television, and other media. Usually one or several of us are interviewed. I've been on *Geraldo*, *Sally Jesse Raphael*, *MTV*, and numerous other programs. Those of us who have done those interviews know that there's a risk of misinterpretation or hostility. But it's worth it. Each time we appear before the cameras, a few more people learn that they do not need to be held in bondage to homosexual desires.

Bringing the cameras into our *Taking Back Ground* program is trickier. We are always careful to protect the identity of those who come here for help. For many strugglers, that assurance is essential to their participation.

When Tracy Barry of Portland's KGW, called and asked to do a story about our ministry, my initial reaction was positive — for the reasons given above. It was, however, obvious that we would have to make it safe for our participants. I was pleased that a number of staff members and participants agreed to appear on camera; others agreed to be in the room with cameras looking over their shoulders. It was gratifying to see this willingness. It meant that those who were finding healing were willing to take some risk in order to get our story out.

To provide some really personal footage, my wife Amy and son Trevor also became part of the filming.

The final product reflected Tracy's commitment to honor our guidelines. As in most television stories, the coverage touched on complicated matters quickly, leaving both us, and the gentleman who represented a contrary point of view, wishing there could have been more explanation. But Tracy's story was balanced, and already has helped our community learn about PF's ministry.



Trevor Thompson - helping to make the shot just right for KGW news

Yet all this was like a few pencil scratches on our full calendar this past month.

In addition to the events that bring *Taking Back Ground* and the *Upper Room Intern Program* to the conclusion of the program year, we were thrilled to host a well-attended and very successful fundraiser. Mission Increase, a Portland organization that assists Christian ministries, offered us a challenge grant of \$50,000 if we would organize and host a banquet.

It has been many years since PF has done something on this scale. We've known for some time that we need to get a step up on funding if we are to meet the needs of the increasing number of people who come here. Having only three full-time and two part-time staff stretches all of us. We believe that God wants us to grow in the scope and effectiveness of bringing hope and healing to the sexually broken.

"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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Mission Increase not only challenged us, but tutored us in the process. We are grateful to them. And we are certainly grateful to the 220 people who came to OMSI to listen to the stories of our ministry, and to respond generously to this challenge. They were encouraged by the personal testimonies of PF's "grads" telling how their lives had been transformed by God. We were inspired by Master of Ceremonies Georgene Rice of KPDQ Radio. John Paulk brought us the perspective of his invaluable experience. By the end of the evening, Mission Increase's \$50,000 challenge was met with gifts and pledges totaling \$54,743. We are not only excited by the gifts received, but of the 100 new friends we made that night. May God be praised!

As this goes to press, I am preparing for a Sabbatical – a much-needed time of rest and recreation with my family. It's natural to feel relieved after these events are accomplished. And I will go out the door with that satisfaction. But the greater feeling is of amazement at how God has blessed this ministry. He has blessed it through all of you who contribute your time and resources and pray faithfully for us. Please know of our gratitude. And – so important – know of the gratitude of those who have found Jesus' healing in their broken lives. This is the best kind of work there is.

In His service,



Jason Thompson
Executive Director



additional updates

Jeremy Gordon-Smith will spend the summer in South America, touching base with our companion ministry *Camino Salida* in Quito, Ecuador, and assisting them with a conference in Peru. He also will visit friends in Buenos Aires and assist the Youth with a Mission (YWAM) personnel there with his new skills learned at PF. At the end of the summer he will fly home to London and enroll in a counseling program at Spurgeon's College. More will be said about each of our 2005 - 2006 interns in the next newsletter.

17 people were honored at a potluck celebration on May 30 upon their completion of two years in *Taking Back Ground*. Some have already indicated their desire to serve as group leaders in coming years.

Please join us for our summer series "Deeply Rooted: Growth through the disciplines." Meetings will be in July and August. Call the office to let us know of your interest.

prayer

We thank God for the birth on May 16 of Elaina Grace Berryessa, daughter of Suzanne and staff member Drew. Every new life is a miracle. This beautiful little miracle comes to parents who are not strangers to God's amazing goodness.

Please pray for our program participants as they transition into summer, or into life beyond their time with us, that God will protect them and continue to grow them in love of Him.

Please pray for our interns as they move on to their new ministries. Pray safe travel for Jeremy in South America. Pray for the incoming interns, as they prepare for their year with us.

Please pray for Jason, Amy and Trevor as they enjoy a much-deserved time of rest and renewal.

Pray for our summer program, that it will bless those who come.

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

June 6, 13, 20, 27

Open Group

For questions about Portland Fellowship or to hear from men and women walking in freedom, please come and join us at 7:00 p.m. each Tuesday night in June.

June 19

Family and Friends

For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement and support. Join us the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

June 27

The wives, girlfriends, and fiancés of men who are struggling with homosexuality or are self-identified as gay come together for encouragement, prayer, and support. 7:00 p.m.

July and August

Summer Series

"Deeply Rooted: Growth through the disciplines."

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com