



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update October 2006

This last summer, I left Portland Fellowship.

It's shocking to hear statistics estimating that 17 percent of ministry workers are experiencing burnout and that less than one-third of them are happy in the work God has called them to do. And it's reported that 40 percent of ministry workers are on a downward track to real burnout with signs of anger, moral compromise, interpersonal difficulties, depression, and overall dissatisfaction. When ministry workers are facing this level of discontent, the people whom they serve must do something. But is there an effective answer?

October is Clergy Appreciation Month, which gives me a wonderful platform for expressing gratitude to my Board and staff for providing me refreshment after sixteen years of ministry. Last year, the Board of Portland Fellowship agreed favorably to provide me a two-month sabbatical this summer. My wife and I could not have been more appreciative. I have heard of pastors and ministry workers who have taken sabbaticals, but mostly for the purpose of vision seeking, personal therapy, or to write – such as an instruction manual or a best-selling book. My sabbatical was a bit different. This sabbatical was considered a “family sabbatical.” My objective was to get out of Portland with my wife and son and just go *somewhere*. Mission Accomplished.

A common issue brought by those who come to Portland Fellowship is family relations, or more accurately, lack thereof. The issues are vast - father and mother divorced when their child was 12; dad emotionally unavailable and lost in alcohol, drugs, or his own selfish interests; dad too busy caring for others in the local church, or community concerns to notice the needs of his family. And the list goes on and on.

I do my best to balance my time between ministry and family, yet it is easy for *Taking Back Ground*, speaking engagements, board meetings, retreats, conferences, intern training, and projects to take priority over family. Thankfully, I have a caring staff and Board, as well as a loving wife and adorable son to keep me focused on that primary and most important role in my life - being a husband and a father. This summer gave me plenty of opportunity to do just that.

My time away included camping, fishing, boating, tons of driving, sitting on the beach, and my favorite - watching my son try his best to take in all the sights and sounds of Disneyland and SeaWorld. Even though, secretly, I was hoping for some mountain top ‘vision statement’ from God, I was not disappointed with what God did provide: a trip full of laughter, good conversation, personal rest and reflection on the many years of ministry He has allowed me.

As I mentioned, I am grateful for a caring and supportive Board. I'm also grateful for a staff that did a fantastic job through the summer months. It was humbling to know that Portland Fellowship does not need Jason Thompson to function, but it was a blessing to know that I was very appreciated upon my return. I'm also grateful for those who supported me and my family with gifts. Special thanks to my parents who covered those amazingly high gas prices. Thank you to my in-laws, Barb and Gary Patefield for opening their home to us with open arms, for all the gift cards that allowed us to eat at some pretty fancy places, and for the prayers and words of encouragement from so many of you as I completed my schooling and headed out of town. My sincere prayer is that you all will be blessed in return.



“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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So yes, this summer I left Portland Fellowship. But I was excited to return. We begin September with great leadership team training sessions, applications for *Taking Back Ground* program stacking up, and we have big plans for the year ahead. Sy Rogers will be returning to Portland for a seminar on Sexual Brokenness in March '07 and will also come this month to share at two churches (see information below).

We look forward to launching our online youth program, and continuing to effectively communicate to churches and our community about this powerful life-changing ministry. As always, I thank you for your friendship to Portland Fellowship and for the gift of rest which has prepared me for the years ahead.



In His service,


Jason Thompson
Executive Director

QUICK REMINDER: *Taking Back Ground* will be starting October 3rd. If you are interested in participation please contact the office. Space is filling quickly!

sy rogers coming to oregon



As a preview for our upcoming March seminar, Sy will be sharing his story in two churches in the area on Sunday, October 15th.

A gifted international communicator, award-winning talk show host, recording artist and pastor, Sy has served for over two decades in ministry as a pastoral care specialist addressing sexuality and related concerns. Sy has been featured in numerous media interviews and articles. We are excited to once again host Sy and are looking forward to his return in March. Come and preview this powerful teacher at one of the two services.

Hillside Christian Fellowship
Sunnyside Elementary School
13401 SE 132nd Ave.
Clackamas, OR - 9:30 a.m.

Lifespring Foursquare Church
1495 NW 20th Street
Corvallis, OR - 6:00 p.m.

prayer

for our staff and leadership team as we begin to prepare for *Taking Back Ground*. Pray that we will know the heart of the Father as we begin to minister to a new group of participants.

for our staff as we continue to do the work God has called us to. Pray that we would find balance, rest and refreshment in the midst of ministry.

for our participants who are dealing with HIV-AIDS and especially two alums who are seriously ill.

for Steve and Darla as they enter into marriage this month. Praise God for his goodness!

for those who will be attending *Taking Back Ground* this next session, that they would be open and receptive to God's leading and redemption.

for those who contact our ministry each week via e-mail and phone, that the Lord would meet them in their need.

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

oct 2
Monthly Board Meeting

oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Taking Back Ground
Discipleship program for men, women, and wives impacted by same-sex attraction. 7 p.m.

oct 16
Family and Friends Group
For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement and support.
Third Monday of each month: 7 p.m.

oct 19
A.W.A.R.E.
Jason will be speaking at an abstinence training seminar. 9 a.m.

oct 29
Living Waters Foursquare, Medford
Drew will be sharing his testimony during the morning worship services.
9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com