

December 2007



Dear Friend,

A father called this past week and shared with me a troubling series of revelations by his son. *“Dad I’m gay, please don’t hate me for it. I never asked for this.”* His son nervously shared his struggle, which included the trauma of being raped at age four by a trusted friend of the family. For years afterward he questioned who he was as he buried this secret with fear and shame.

This phone call created a mixture of emotions for us both. The young man’s father was both angry and sad. He wrestled with a desire to physically harm the man who did this to his son and grieved that he was not there to protect him from the abuse. I sat in my own set of emotions as I realized that my own son, Trevor, is the same age as was this man’s son, equally innocent and naive. It was all too easy for my own sense of anger and retribution to join with the father on the other end of the phone. But something else became more important, I wanted to talk with his son and encourage him. I wanted the opportunity to hear his story and when appropriate to offer truth and hope in the midst of the enemy’s lies. Ours is not a work of vengeance it is a work of redemptive reality and prayerful change.

“It’s a privilege to be a part of the journey for men and women struggling against sexual sin.”

Although Portland Fellowship is a difficult and complex ministry, I am frequently amazed at the opportunity we have to lead those who are wounded sexually and relationally into wholeness and into a right relationship with our Lord. As we continue in this work, I hope

you personally know what a privilege it is to be a part of the journey for these men and women struggling against sexual sin.

It is somewhat easy to get behind the moral message against homosexuality. As Christians we are bombarded with pressure to take action regarding issues such as: homosexuality in the media, gay marriage, gay adoption, gay rights, gays in the military and so on. A large amount of energy, time and financial resources are expended in the direction of counteracting these issues. However, much of this work is general and impersonal in its overall results. The call to social involvement is important, yet the call to redeeming lives must not go ignored. In the midst of all this, I’m encouraged by your interest and support for the redemptive message of Jesus Christ.

We can attempt to clean up culture by regulating and legislating morality, yet consider this: when a life is transformed, that man or women’s hurting family is transformed, and when that family becomes whole, the family’s church becomes whole, and when the church becomes whole, those who are lost and do not know

*“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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Christ see something that is unmistakably attractive and real in the lives of the men and women who are claiming the name of Jesus.

When you financially support the work of Portland Fellowship, you are directly responsible for the transformation of the Body of Christ. Your “dollars” are converted directly into ministry. We have extremely low overhead as God has given us a facility that is completely owned by Portland Fellowship. Therefore, financial gifts directly benefit the hurting people that come looking to us as a sanctuary and a road map to hope.

We are extremely blessed to have faithful long-time supporters. If you are not one of them, would you consider joining us in this partnership? Although homosexuality is increasingly normalized in our culture and in some churches, God continues to draw more and more people to Portland Fellowship. This has caused us all to think of how we can expand our small staff and develop more programs - all so that we are able to have more personal time with the needs of those who come to us for help.

Would you consider giving a year-end gift and if you have not done so already, pledge your monthly support for 2008? A regular supporter is an amazing relationship that we cherish. We do not regard you as an ATM that dishes out money when someone pushes your buttons. You are a friend and an advocate, which communicates monthly with us. Pledges also gives us knowledge as to what finances will be available on an ongoing basis gives us a better understanding of how we can develop more life-changing programs based on that support. Also, as you communicate regularly with us, it gives us the opportunity to communicate directly back to you though a personal receipt letter of how your investment is making a difference. And finally, by being a monthly supporter we believe your life will be transformed, because *where your treasure is, there your heart will be as well*. By investing your treasure in the work of redemption, your heart becomes seated with Christ in his ministry of deliverance. Please take a moment and send us an email. We would very much love to hear from you.

May the Lord's blessing be on you and your family this Christmas season and into the New Year.



Jason Thompson
Executive Director

[Our partners make it possible to offer:](#)

Taking Back Ground – support to men and women walking in freedom

Wives' support – for those whose husbands are struggling with same-sex attractions

Support for Youth and Young adults – with technical advances to help reach our young people

Living Well – Those living with a HIV-positive diagnosis

Training for Upper Room Interns – The training of future leaders

Outreach – to our community, churches, youth functions, and even to Quito, Ecuador

Development of curriculum, translation of our material, and close-captioning for the deaf

Counseling and mentoring of all ages.