

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update October 2007



PORTLAND  
fellowship

Allow me to introduce the newest member of my family - Cody Evan Thompson. Cody was born September 13, weighing in at 7lb 6oz. Trevor, Cody's older brother by 4 years, has been anxiously awaiting his arrival and now that he is here, Trevor is proud to be called a big brother.

Having children has always been a huge desire of my heart. Even as a teen, I desired to be a father, but believed that my struggles with same sex attraction would exclude me from this possibility. I'm tremendously thankful that God is bigger than our struggles, doubts, and fears. And not only so, but he fulfills the desires of our hearts.

There is a risk in sharing how God took me from confusion with same-sex attraction to being married with a family, as I could make it appear that marriage is the goal of the healing we seek. I've always said that being married or having a family is not proof of healing, but rather can be a blessing of it. And God has blessed me in this way, by taking me from a life of uncertainty, hopelessness, and confusion and turning it into something wonderful and beautiful. God is good. I can not help but share this story of my transformation with the world. And this past August I had the opportunity to do just that by going to Quito, Ecuador.



My time in Ecuador was remarkable. A sister ministry of Portland Fellowship, *Camino de Salida* (The Way Out), hosted an international conference titled "From Carbon to Diamonds". I taught eight times (with a translator) during the three-day event. After the conference I spent another three days training leaders from several countries. In-between these two planned items, I was given the opportunity to share our work on four different radio programs, and spoke to a politician about the importance of loving those who are gay and lesbian as he seeks to uphold morality in his country. Although all these activities were great, the deeper memories will be of the people. For starters, I was joined by two former interns, Jimmy Di'Agosta and Jeremy Gordon-Smith. We were involved in plenty of active ministry, but when free time was available, the three of us would take on Quito together. Jeremy was especially helpful as he spoke Spanish fluently. This helped me with bartering, counseling, and ordering a burger with fried banana on it.

Another benefit of my trip was to meet the men and women of *Camino de Salida*, a ministry Portland Fellowship has been financially supporting for many years. Two years ago, Jeremy translated our *Taking Back Ground* material into Spanish. Before we left to Quito, we decided to present them with a couple boxes of these manuals. They were grateful for the gift and asked that I pass on their gratitude to you, our partners that helped make this all possible. The people at *Camino* are wonderful people doing a great work, and if you are looking to expand your tithes and offerings to ministries abroad, please consider *Camino* or similar ministries in Latin America.

"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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Without knowing it, I can get tunnel vision doing God's work, as though God is an American. I know homosexuality is a global issue, but the pursuit of freedom from it, felt American to me. I was profoundly moved by the men and women in Quito who were standing against popular thinking on homosexuality and choosing to honor the Lord with their lives as they fight for the convictions of their hearts. It is good to know first-hand that God is moving all across the world.

As I write this, I am having some time at home to enjoy my family. This time also gives me an opportunity to stop and reflect on God's abundant gifts. I am blessed to have a healthy and adorable newborn son, a loving and supportive family, and an amazing summer of ministry. I am also reminded of my gratefulness for you. Your love, friendship, and support of PF continue to bless me personally as well as change the lives of many... here and abroad.



May God bless you and your families,

  
 Jason Thompson  
 Executive Director

### special thanks...

Every year in August, the staff of Portland Fellowship leaves the office and heads out, as a team, to a quiet place to pray, seek, plan and connect. This is an important time for the staff to prepare for the all that is coming during the fall months. This year, we were especially blessed. John and Laura, two long time friends of PF blessed us with the use of their guest home in a beautiful area outside of Eugene. The time we spent there was both productive and recreational, and exactly what we as a staff needed. Please join us in praying that the Lord would bless John and Laura for providing the staff with such an incredible retreat.

### partner with us...

With the fall season upon us, Portland Fellowship is entering into one of our busiest seasons. During this season, we treasure your partnership. There are many ways that you can partner with PF, either through financial support, through prayer, or through service, and by sharing our work with others. If you have not yet made a decision to partner with us, please consider doing so. If you have any questions about the ways you can partner with PF, please contact Drew at the office. 503-235-6364

### prayer

in thanksgiving for the birth of Cody Evan Thompson, and the good health of mother and child.

in thanksgiving for the work of *Camino de Salida*, and for the safe and productive trip of our team to Ecuador.

please pray for our new and returning participants that will be starting *Taking Back Ground* this month.

for our volunteer group leaders and intercessors, as they prepare for the ministry ahead.

for those with HIV/AIDS, especially those in our support group.

for our interns as they begin continue learning ministry new skills. Two interns have asked prayers for health issues.

please pray for provision for this ministry, that the Lord would bring new ongoing financial partners to PF.

please pray for our staff and leadership team, that as we serve our participants we would be protected and sustained by the Lord.

**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

**october 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

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

**october 4, 11, 18, 25**

*Upper Room Intern Program* Interns will be studying teaching and group leadership skills.

**october 14**

*Christian Life Center* Yakima, WA  
 Drew will be speaking and sharing his testimony in the evening service.

**october 19**

*Family and Friends Group*  
 For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement and support. 7 p.m.

**NOTE:** *This group is now being held on the third Friday of each month.*

**Counseling and youth support**  
 Can be arranged through the office.

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