



August 2008

PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

One of the most faith-building tasks that I do here at PF is picking up the mail. Now, that may sound weird, given that on a daily basis any one of the staff members here at PF, including myself, engage in other functions that may seem a bit more spiritually relevant. For example, counseling an individual who is in the process of submitting his or her life and sexuality to Christ, or offering empathy and compassion to a parent who just learned of their child's struggle. Occasionally on the docket is intervening in the life of an individual who is contemplating suicide. Sometimes it is offering prayer to someone who is dealing with the effects of HIV / AIDS. So what is so spiritually significant about going to the post office? Our post office box is where I pick up every donation given to Portland Fellowship.

Funding is a reality that every non-profit organization has to face. Every ministry needs financial partners that believe in what you do, and minister with you through their giving and promotion of the mission. Here at Portland Fellowship we have incredible partners! It is very rare that we focus on giving in our newsletters because, aside from the occasional major project, we are faithfully supported. However, when the need arises to mention fund-raising, there is a lie that begins to find its way in to my heart: "I have to say the right things in this letter, I have to present this just right or else no one will be compelled to give. It is all up to me!"

An observation I have made about not only my own life, but of the lives of those I come into contact with, is this overwhelming sense of self-reliance. What I mean by is that there tends to be this theme that runs deep in our hearts and minds saying, "I need to make this happen. It is all up to me." It is amazing how one simple mindset can spill over into many different aspects of life. I can remember spending years in isolation with my struggle with same sex attraction, thinking that my healing or recovery was all up to me to deal with on my own. Likewise, I have seen so many men and women approach a calling or instruction that God has given them with the same attitude. God may have called them to the task, but beyond that, it seems that it is all up to them to accomplish it. No, it is not all up to us. In Matthew 11:28-30 we find Christ making a statement that seems to offer a remedy to this attitude self-reliance.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

There is a beautiful truth here that reminds me that everything God calls us into is a partnership with Him. This is why the trip to the post office is an exercise in faith for me every time I go. It is a reminder to me that God is in faithful partnership with PF, and that he does not leave it "all up to us" as a staff to accomplish his work. I can heartily rejoice and rest in that truth!

I was thinking about this as I headed to the post office this week. It has been on my mind because summer brings with it another reality in the non-profit world: giving is a bit low in this season. As I pondered this, and God gently reminded me of his partnership with PF, a thought occurred to me, "I wonder if our donors feel as though they can rest in this partnership as well?"

When God lays it on your heart to give to the ministry of PF, do you feel secure in God partnering with you to make it possible? I know that there have been seasons in my life where the call God placed on my heart to give financially was met with resistance. For me, it was not that the cause was not worthy, or that the need was



"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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not there. It was that the same old lie, telling me that my financial stability was all up to me, that prevented me from doing what God was calling me to do. Again, the truth of the word is that, as believers, our **whole lives** are a partnership with the Lord. If He is asking something of us, He is there to partner with us fully in it. That includes giving. Let me ask you, are you free to rejoice and rest in that truth?

If you receive our newsletter, there is a high probability that you believe in this ministry. Maybe your life has been changed by the work God has done through PF. Maybe you have found this to be a place of understanding, encouragement or support. Maybe you have a friend or loved one who has, or who could benefit from this ministry. I want to encourage you to ask the Lord if he may be inviting you to financially partner with us in this work. Maybe you have felt the Lord prompting you to give, but you have not taken that step. I want to encourage you, if God has asked you to give to this ministry, he is faithful to enable you to do so!

Thank you to everyone who partners with us financially, prayerfully, and through your faithful works of service. May the Lord bless you richly with His presence!

In Christ,



Drew Berryessa
Ministry Coordinator

reach truth

In barely a month, 20 people are already going through the journey of **ReachTruth.com**. The program is providing a much-needed starting place for men and women who find themselves with a desire to pursue God and confront the struggles they have faced, many times, alone. We know that this is just the beginning of how God wants to bless, encourage, and provide hope. We are fine-tuning the program each day, adding more features, expanding the resources, and actively mentoring several of those going through the 20 destinations. In one instance, a man from Oklahoma told a friend of his in Colorado about the program and the two of them are going through ReachTruth as student and mentor. It is amazing to see God using the offering of this discipleship opportunity as a means for real community, honesty, and healing to be happening in the Body of Christ. Bless Your work, Lord!

Visit **www.pfhope.com**
to see how you can share
Portland Fellowship
resources with local churches.

prayer

...for our sister ministry in Ecuador, Camino de Salida. May God grant them protection, blessing and encouragement in their vital work.

...for the new Upper Room interns as they move in and get settled in for an amazing year of learning, service and growth.

...for God to provide the team of leaders for the fall who will be prepared to love and serve the TBG participants.

...for courage and strength for all the men and women considering participation in *Taking Back Ground* this fall.

...for continued prayer support and intercession for the work of Portland Fellowship and all of the leaders, staff and people seeking support.

...for the continued growth and utilization of the Reach Truth Internet program.

portland fellowship is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 non-denominational organization. We are exclusively supported through private donations, support services, and offerings. Thank you for your gifts.

events calender

august 3

Jason Thompson will be speaking at Faith Evangelical Church in Dallas, OR.

august 5, 12, 19

Deeply Rooted
Summer series: This month's topics are Mourning, Gratitude, and Celebration
Call office for details. 7 p.m.

august 15

Family and Friends Group
Monthly meeting for those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement and support.
Third Friday each month 7 p.m.

august 20-22

Portland Fellowship Staff Retreat
Annual two days away for planning and prayer. (office will be closed 8/20-22)

Check website for additional updates
at **www.portlandfellowship.com**