



Dear Friend,

December 2008

Please take a moment, as you are sitting down to read this letter, to pause and remember a time when someone blessed you in an unexpected way. How did it feel to receive something that was just right and at the perfect time? A gift that communicated a level of care, assurance and thoughtfulness that is truly rare and cherished. Even now there may be warm feelings of gratitude and of kindness that well up for the person or people that made those efforts to love you so precisely.

I know that I have had those moments of profound thankfulness as a result of powerful and perfectly timed gifts. And Portland Fellowship has been humbled and moved by gifts of time and finances and relationships that continue to reverberate with gratitude throughout all aspects of this work. As we conclude our 20th year of ministry, I am amazed to think about the sheer number of people who have had a deep and lasting impact on the way God loves people through this ministry. Recently, I received a phone call from a long-time friend of PF who wanted to share a decision she had made:

“Jason, I’ve been watching the way things are going in the world and the way people have been giving into fear. I am personally challenged to stand against that fear and trust God. I would like to send a monetary gift and want you to know that this is out of a genuine love of what God is doing at Portland Fellowship and to see His Kingdom grow.”

Not only was the gift a financial blessing to Portland Fellowship, but the heart of the giver was a huge blessing as well. The only reason any of this giving and receiving is possible is because of the heart of God who has given so perfectly to us.

And even though we know that Christ has come, during this season we rehearse this greatest of arrivals year after year. The coming of Jesus was no accidental event. Before the foundations of the world God knew that He would need to make a way for people lost beyond their own ability to repair or make amends. God gave us the gift of returning to him and knowing him...He gave us Life. The angels announced His lavish love when they declared, “Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.”

It is out of this Divine favor that any believer, and specifically those of us that serve at Portland Fellowship, is able to provide gifts of Hope, Truth, and Grace. We often get calls, letters, and emails from people seeking those kinds of gifts and sometimes we hear back from them about how they have been impacted by the message of redemption and healing:

“...you all have such an amazing way of speaking truth and yet extend a tremendous amount of grace and understanding. I truly thank God for your ministry, because without it I would be a lot worse off in my life today. I can get so discouraged and want to give up and give in, but every time I call I get encouraged and want to go out and fight the battle and win. I will win!”

As you faithfully give and pray for Portland Fellowship, God continues to be the recipient of your offerings. It is amazing to see Him take your gifts and turn them into encouragement, hope, restoration, obedience, repentance, health, joy and glory. No one else but God could take the prayers of our hearts and the cash from our wallets and turn them into such powerful and eternal blessings. Thank you.

Below, we offer a tear off year-end response. Would you take a moment and consider a year-end gift to Portland Fellowship, and if you've already sent your gifts, would you send this back with a note on the back? We value you and would very much appreciate a quick note from you.

May you be intimately aware of how precisely Jesus Christ loves you during this season of celebration and remembering!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Jason Thompson
Executive Director

Please visit us online to give a year-end gift, or print and cut this response card below.

Year-End Communication Card

Name:
Address:



Enclosed is a year-end gift in the amount of \$ _____.

I have pledged or would like to pledge \$ _____ a month to Portland Fellowship.

Please charge my visa/debit or M/C: Card Number: _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____ in the amount of \$ _____

Remember, your generous giving is Tax-deductible

Please use the back of this card to communicate with us.

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