

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update February 2008

Occasionally, I have moments where my emotional response to something takes me by surprise. I'll be minding my own business playing with my daughter, talking to my wife and then some commercial comes on TV. Now, it could be any sort of advertisement. It doesn't really matter what product it is, but something in the commercial touches a universal truth, some shared emotional experience, and as a result, here come the tears. Sure, you **know** that you are crying over a fabric softener commercial, but you can't help it!

For me, my most recent experience of this did not come at the hand of crafty advertisers, but through one simple question. As I was leaving church last week, I had a chance to talk with a friend about the ministry of Portland Fellowship. Somewhere near the end of the conversation, the young woman asked: "Where does Portland Fellowship receive its funding?" I was not prepared for my emotional response.

Let me give you a little context. Every year in January, Portland Fellowship's staff and board of directors meet for our annual planning meeting. It is in this meeting that we, among other agenda items, review our budget from last year and set our budget for the year to come. Although crunching numbers has never been one of my favorite activities, each year this seemingly tedious task takes on a more profound meaning for me. I become wonderfully confronted and comforted by God's faithfulness to this ministry.



*This month's Update is by
Ministry Coordinator
Drew Berryessa - Drew has
served on staff since 2004.*

Our annual planning meeting was just a few days prior to my friend's question; and, having all the numbers of our budget still floating around in my head, I am sure that I could have very easily and systematically recited every detail of where our funding comes from. That, however, was not my response. I managed to get out a few intelligent words before getting choked up. I remember thinking, "What is wrong with you! Just complete a sentence!" Numbers were not coming to mind- names and faces were. Portland Fellowship's financial partners do not simply represent a transaction that happens, but rather a relationship and a history that comes in with each gift of support. Each gift is a parent's hope and belief in the God who transforms lives, or it is an offering of gratitude of a life that has been changed, or the affirming support of the family of faith to continue doing a ministry that so few others have the platform to do. There is a lot more than just a check to be cashed in each envelope. How could I even begin to explain that? I have a hard enough time just taking that in for myself...how do I share that with others?

It truly is amazing what we get to do here. Every week we watch as God moves among us changing lives, healing wounds, instilling hope, and restoring marriages. It is amazing to watch. Sometimes the process is beautiful, sometimes it is an absolute mess...but in all of it, the

"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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hand of God is evident. It is such a faith builder! What amazes me, and what truly overwhelms me is everyone who is not here to see what we see, yet you faithfully and generously enable all of this to happen.

The truth is Portland Fellowship is blessed to have wonderful partners in ministry. Partners who care about the people this ministry serves. Partners who faithfully sacrifice from their own resources to make sure that the message of hope and healing will continue to be shared with those who seek it. Partners who understand that the great commission to “go and make disciples of all,” includes men and women struggling with same sex attractions. It has become impossible for me to think about our budget or our funding without thinking about the amazing people that allowed this ministry to function, grow, and expand over the past twenty years. Grateful is not a strong enough word.

If you have been faithfully supporting this ministry through giving, than please know your gifts are of eternal value. God moves mightily through them. If you have not yet made a decision to partner with us financially, may I ask you to consider whether or not God may be inviting you to do so. There is still so much that God is calling to do here at PF. We would love to have you along for the ride.



Drew Berryessa
Ministry Coordinator



Happy 20th Birthday,
Portland Fellowship!

We will be highlighting features from newsletters past to give you a glimpse of how this ministry has grown over the past two decades. There is a rich history of prayer, sacrifice and dedication that has made Portland Fellowship one of the longest running ministries in the Exodus network. God established this work and has sustained it. This year we celebrate the wonderful faithfulness of our Savior and the powerful testimonies of lives changed! We can't wait to see all that God wants to do in the next twenty years. Stay tuned!

prayer

Please pray for:

For the abundance of up coming speaking engagements. Praise the Lord for more and more opportunities to equip families, pastors and churches.

For the Taking Back Ground retreat in early March. The staff has been planning a rich time of scriptural meditation and rest. Pray this time to be protected and full of the Lord's presence.

Thanksgiving for God's countless blessings on us, and especially for our freedom from bondage to sin.

Thanksgiving for new partners in prayer and financial giving- our community of support continues to GROW!

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 calendar

feb 1-2

Spokane, WA Seminar
Jason and Drew will be traveling to Spokane, WA to present a day long seminar.

feb 5, 12, 19, 26

Taking Back Ground
Discipleship group for men and women struggling with same-sex attraction. Call office for details. 7 p.m.

feb 15

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

mar 7-9

Taking Back Ground Retreat
Retreat open to current and former TBG participants. Call office for details.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com