



# the fellowship message

"Proclaiming freedom for the captives." ISAIAH 61

may/june 2008 volume , number

## Where am I going? by Danny Harvey

No matter how many times I travel, move, or change direction, I find I'm faced with an abundance of possibilities...a seemingly endless line of closed doors with unintelligible markings on the faceplates.

After serving as an intern in the Upper Room Intern Program at the Portland Fellowship during 2006–2007, I began wondering just how my life would progress. Once again, I was faced with the somewhat existential question: *Where am I going?* The training program which served as a constant catalyst for personal change in and through me began to feel more like a rocket launch pad ... providing support before my inevitable launch into the bright skies of the future. One fleeting, fearful thought persisted: *Am I ready? If I get too close to someone... I might spread my instability. What if my brokenness spills over into ministry... among the people I'm supposed to serve? I hope I don't crash.* I've come to find out that God has a beautiful sense of irony and humour when it comes to fear and that he meets us in our dou

### Now and Not Yet.

One of the most common phrases in theology is "Now and Not Yet," referring to the kingdom of God breaking into everyday life through the life of Christ and yet everything is not as it will be. If you're anything like me, theological arguments and debates only go so far in stimulating my thoughts before I go back to whatever task I happened to be doing at the time. After all, what does all that theological double-talk have to do with the messiness of my life? I've read countless books on how things *should* work in theory (and everything *does* work ... *in theory*). Silly slogans fly through my head: "Five steps to become the servant leader God's made you to be," "Ten ways to cultivate a sense of purpose in ministry," "Discern your purpose, calling, and meaning in six days, and rest on the Sabbath with Jesus."

I admit that most of these thoughts are somewhat outlandish. However, when I thought about the concept of "Now and Not Yet" I discovered that this was the precise place where God wanted me ... this time between interning at the Portland Fellowship and beginning a more long-term ministry. In 2006, I had started with ministering at my church, the Portland Fellowship, and work, yet I wasn't quite a 'minister.' I'd begun my studies at Seminary, yet I had another year left. I'd begun to see how God was breaking down relational barriers I'd been building since childhood through my relationships with housemates, coworkers, and the Portland Fellowship staff; yet, I was blindly attempting to be a light in a world as a man who'd just received sight. How was it that the world had become such a strange and unsettling place over the course of a nine-month-long internship? Much of the time at the Portland Fellowship I'd spent walking through some of the most broken places in my life. After sorting through so much fear and pain, how would I engage in healthy relationships? How was I to live in the meantime—the time after the internship and before long-term ministry?



Danny reflects on how the Upper Room Intern Program continues to impact his life and ministry

### Not Here, but Him.

I realized that the answer to my questions lay in Christ's longest recorded prayer in Scripture. Before Christ left, he prayed for His disciples, stating the following:

*"For they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."* (John 17: 14-18) Jesus amplifies the prayer by interceding on behalf of His disciples, not for protection, but sanctification. There was a reason for my growing uneasiness - I don't really belong here. I belong to and with Christ. I remember an amazing illustration that Robyn, my fellow intern, gave as she showed how God protects us by holding us – not necessarily by removing us from harmful situations – utilizing even our pain to purify us and hurts to heal others. She'd held a fruit and had several people pierce it with toothpicks. Her point was that although events and people may pierce us and cause us pain, God would never let go of us. Nothing can separate us from His love. As I found comfort in Christ, His love and forgiveness began to flow in and through me. I started to see how God had used nine months to prepare me further for future ministry.

### Eternal Exercises.

As I examined my life in painful detail during the internship, I was often confronted with the depth of my brokenness. With the help of those around me, I identified and confessed areas and attitudes which had long been hidden. Moreover, the approach or environment of mutual sharing, caring, and intercession found within the confines of the Portland Fellowship somehow became rooted in my very being. To some extent it's difficult to even think or talk about it without taking a moment to sort through the brilliant, overwhelming flood of thoughts and feelings. Ironically, I remember participating in an exercise (called a process group) during the internship where we'd sit in a circle discussing only our most current feelings. The purpose of the group was to encourage and challenge each person to share their feelings as they came. However, frustration and anger emerged as I struggled internally with social silence and emotional suppression. I quickly realized that I simply wasn't good at expressing (or recognizing) my feelings in a social context.

Looking back on those nine months, I realized that God was training me in eternal exercises. These exercises were marked by intentional vulnerability in light of my identity in Christ. I began to see how they could be practiced to bless the lives of people around me. I'm constantly discovering

new ways to listen to others and express myself. Also, God has developed an unquenchable soul-hunger for His kingdom to come in whatever community I find myself in ... and having experienced the grace of Communion throughout the internship has equipped me with countless memories and stories of how God is faithful despite fears, inadequacies, or seemingly impossible circumstances. God had made deep, hopeful healing second nature as I live my life, and it spills over into the lives of those around me. Apparently, I was *meant* to come alongside people to serve as a middle man in the meantime. I've found that everyone has a story and that as I vulnerably share portions of mine they are given the space to process it with me. My brokenness began to heal as I took it to God and articulated what He'd been doing to those around me. Even now as I cast my cares on Him, He prepares my heart for future relationships and events.



*Enjoying some  
down time*

### Big Step, Small Step.

There's such a struggle in overcoming the mindset that once I've overcome or accomplished certain monumental tasks I will have *finally* gotten to a place where I am nigh invulnerable ... like I'm playing a game of spiritual King of the Mountain. Whether that involves serving in recovery ministry at my church or finishing my coursework at seminary, God's continuously strengthening my roots as I actively wait to see how I can best be used. I'm noticing that God has granted me glimpses of how He's been changing me by granting me the opportunity to see things from His perspective. He's placed friends in my life who naturally serve as process group members, pastors and professors as mentors, and the whole world as His children and my potential brothers and sisters who I'm continually growing to love as He does. To say that I've not encountered difficulty would be entirely false. I'm perhaps busier than I've ever been, not to mention that my schooling, work situation, and ministry constantly drawing me to my knees. I find myself increasingly waiting on Him, realizing that He has continues to give me the strength to take one more, small step forward.

At the end of the Internship I was preparing for seminary, yet I'm sure that God was chuckling as He was signing me up for a crash course in Meantime Theology. I am now finishing up at seminary and I see God leading toward planting and growing small groups within my church. I'm convinced that I'll be a lifelong learner as He teaches and guides me through eternal opportunities in the present. As I look into the future, I rest assured that Christ is eternally present ... perfecting me as I go. Where am I going? *With Him ...*

## Pray Without Ceasing

On any given Tuesday night there is a small group of five men and women who seem to be milling around at Portland Fellowship. They aren't small group leaders and they aren't participants, so why are they here? This faithful band of men and women are our prayer intercessors. We can't imagine going a week without their faithful prayer support of all the work going on in every other aspect of this ministry.



Often we don't think about the spiritual dynamics of what is going on all around us, but they are as real as the paper in your hand and the chair you are sitting in right now. As followers of Jesus, we have the same confidence that the Apostle Paul asserts in his letter to the Romans, chapter 8, verses 38 & 39: *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* And with that confidence we know that any fears, doubts, lies, and anxieties fed or fanned by the enemies of our souls can be met with the truth of God in prayer. Our prayer intercessors provide the words of truth and the watchfulness of prayer that enables our leaders and participants to be surrounded by the reminders of God's promise and the community of faith. The work of Portland Fellowship is undeniably Holy Spirit work: changing lives and bringing forth hope from despair. Several of our intercessors provided the following window into what it means for them to pray for the work at Portland Fellowship:

*I am realizing how we join the participants in the battle they are fighting. They need prayer for the courage and hope to be overcomers as they look at all the things that God is bringing up for them. At the same time I know we support the staff with protection from assaults that come from the spiritual forces that are actively opposing this work locally. I often find myself asking God for the revelation of His truth so I know how to pray. It blows my mind to see how God shows up in faithfulness and power. I continue to be deeply blessed when I know I prayed for people and I hear back from them and they testify to God's amazing answers and kindness.*

**-Kathy**

*At first our prayer team was one guy who has stayed committed for more than two years, and now there is a team of five of us who are here every week. Weekly, we ask the small group leaders and staff for prayer requests and they always have plenty for us to pray about. We know that we are assisting the leaders by helping them carry their burdens and to lift up each group and each group member. Being able to pray at PF every Tuesday night has been a privilege and a joy. I've seen such a positive impact on my relationship with the Lord and I see Him strengthening my ability to trust God.*

**-Sean**

*I've heard from both leaders and participants that the visible presence of the prayer team on Tuesday nights is a huge encouragement to them. Several people have said that they feel safer knowing that prayer is happening during the whole evening. I frequently find myself praying for protection and strength, relational healing between the participants and God, and for the effectiveness of the teaching sessions. I truly believe that PF is at the tip of the spear in the battle between culture at large and the gospel of Jesus Christ. This ministry is vital to God's kingdom and therefore it is vital that it is supported in prayer. I am surprised at how important this prayer time has become in my week; and, I am convinced that praying for PF has been a major part of God opening my eyes to who He is and His presence all around us.*

**-Dan**

## HOPE initiative

The Hope Initiative is off and running. Just in the first month we've had more than 20 people write letters to churches from our database of local pastors and ministry leaders. More and more people are receiving a chance to consider the awesome opportunity afforded by this chance to spread the word about Portland Fellowship and the resources that are available to the Body of Christ in the Northwest. If you not taken the time to check out the website, take a minute today to go to [www.pfhope.com](http://www.pfhope.com) and see how you might be able to get involved. There are hundreds of churches who have yet to have a member of our partnership community personally get in touch with them. Prayerfully consider if God is inviting you to share what it is about the work of Portland Fellowship that would be beneficial to the work of a specific area church. Thanks to all who have participated in the Hope Initiative and for all of those who are going to do so.

## may - june calendar & services

**Thank you...** to Janet Gardner and the work crew from Hinson Baptist Church, as well as the members of the PF community who helped out for our Spring Clean up day. We were surprised by the better-than-forecast weather and we got a lot of outdoor work accomplished around the Fellowship house.

may 6, 13, 20, 27

### **Taking Back Ground**

Struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions? Call for an application.

june 3, 10, 17, 24

### **Open Group**

Meetings open to all who are interested in learning more about the work of Portland Fellowship. A time for support, sharing, and Q/A. 7 p.m.

may / june

### **Living Well**

Support and fellowship for men living with HIV/AIDS, call for information.

may 14

### **Eastside Church**

Jason Thompson will be sharing with an outreach group. 7:00 p.m.

may 16 & june 20

### **Family & Friends Group**

Join us for guidance, encouragement and support. Join us the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

### **Additional updates:**

[www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com)

### **Speakers, counseling and youth support**

can be arranged through the office.

## **Drew, Suzanne, and Elaina are proud to announcing the arrival of Olivia Joy Berryessa!**

She was born at 7:55 am on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Olivia was born at a water birthing center and Drew had the awesome privilege of performing the actual delivery of his daughter. Suzanne, being the amazingly resilient woman we know her to be, was up and ready to go home right after dinner time the same day.

Both mom and baby are doing well. Elaina has taken right away to being a proud big sister. We are so grateful to our Heavenly Father for a smooth birth experience and a new member to the Portland Fellowship family. We love you all so much!



*It's a lot of hard work being born...I need a nap!*

### **innovative ways to give to portland fellowship**

Of course the simplest way to give to PF is to donate cash or stocks, however, a tax-smart way to provide for the ministry is to give "innovative gifts" such as real estate, business interest, land, and estate gifts.

To learn more about giving to PF through NCCF, call us or visit their website at [www.nccf4christ.org](http://www.nccf4christ.org). Ask them for a informational video which highlights Portland Fellowship.



## **P O R T L A N D**

**f e l l o w s h i p**

**The Fellowship Message** is a monthly publication of The Portland fellowship, a ministry proclaiming freedom from homosexuality through the power of Jesus Christ

#### **MINISTRY TEAM**

**Jason Thompson**  
*Executive Director*

**Drew Berryessa**  
*Ministry Coordinator*

**Jim Thompson**  
*Pastoral Support*

**Steve Baliko**  
*Upper Room Assistant*

**Sue & Suzanne**  
*Women's support*

**Heidi Perry**  
*Wive's support*

**The Fellowship Message** is sent free upon request. (An annual donation of \$15 is appreciated to cover printing and postage costs.) No part of this newsletter may be reproduced or reprinted without permission.

post office box 14841  
portland, oregon 97293  
telephone 503.235.6364  
fax 503.235.3896

e-mail: [pf@portlandfellowship.com](mailto:pf@portlandfellowship.com)  
[portlandfellowship.com](http://portlandfellowship.com)

Portland Fellowship is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) nondenominational organization. We are exclusively supported through private donations, support services, and offerings.