



Greetings Friend,

December 2009

It has started already, have you noticed it? The frantic introduction of the Holiday season. Walking into a local grocery store this last weekend I experience sensory overload. The eight foot display of cinnamon scented pine cones was just the first of at least a thousand square feet of holiday paraphernalia, all gleaming in bright colors and festive fragrance. The airwaves are full of this as well. I dare you to watch a single hour of prime time television this evening without having to wade through several messages trying to convince you that the meaning of Christmas is to find that perfect something for that specific loved one. I am convinced that the biggest challenge we face during the season is not staying within a Christmas budget, but rather in the midst of all this, remembering the true reason we celebrate.

As believers in Jesus, we know that Christmas celebrates the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior. God's gift to us, the gift of Jesus, is truly the greatest gift we could ever receive. But to understand this gift's worth, it is important to recall why this gift was given. Why did Jesus come? In Luke 4, Jesus Himself gives a glimpse of this. Jesus is standing in a synagogue in Nazareth and begins to read from Isaiah 61. He reads, saying of Himself and His purpose:

*"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

It is difficult not to catch the theme of what He is saying here. He has come to give hope, healing, and freedom. We could rehash the deeper theological point of the purpose of Jesus, but straight from the mouth of Christ, we can see that the gift of Jesus is indeed a great gift. So aside from the obvious focus on Jesus in this year end letter, why do I bring up this passage? This passage from Isaiah is the scriptural foundation of our ministry here at PF. We have been called to live out the mission and purpose of Jesus to the people that seek our ministry for help. We give the hope of the gospel, we bind up the brokenhearted, we proclaim freedom, and help those who are captive to sin to become free in the truth. This was the mission of Jesus, and this is our mission as well.

No doubt, to seek to partner with Jesus in His work is a high calling, yet it is one that all of us as believers share. Not one of us has been given an out on this calling; we all have the privilege of finding ways to represent Jesus in this fallen and hurting world. It can never be emphasized enough that Portland Fellowship would not be able to represent Jesus the way we do if it were not for our faithful ministry partners who, as part of joining Jesus in his mission, have chosen to give of their resources, both financially and spiritually, to the work and ministry of PF.

It almost goes without saying that the giving of resources, especially financially this last year, has no doubt been an exercise of faith. The global financial crisis has done a lot to test the mettle of any person led to give out of their own resources. Consequently, as a ministry, we have seen a reduction in the amount of giving this last year. There are, no doubt, many reasons for this. Whether this was out of necessity or fear, the truth is, finances have been tight for most everyone. Regardless, we know that ultimately, our source and provider is God alone. He is certainly faithful, and can be trusted.

As was said earlier, PF could not represent Jesus to the world in the way that we do without the faithful financial partnership of those joining the mission of Jesus with us. We would like to ask you to prayerfully consider if the Lord is asking you to partner with us financially in 2010. We do not take this partnership lightly, and recognize that not everybody is able to financially partner with us. What we are asking of you is to simply and prayerfully ask yourself two questions: 1) Do I believe in the work of Portland Fellowship? And 2) Lord, how would you have me support this work? However the Lord leads you, either through a onetime gift, monthly pledge, or a commitment to pray for our ministry, we trust that you will respond to His leading.

This has been a lean year financially, and although the Lord has led and directed this ministry to a place where the impact has not adversely affected us, we want to be able to continue to offer the best service we can to those God has called us to care for. We are grateful for every gift of faith that enables us to continue this work.

May God richly bless you this Christmas season with His peace, joy, and healing presence!

  
Jason Thompson  
Executive Director

  
Drew Berryessa  
Program Manager

**Two options to support Portland Fellowship this year:**

Portland Fellowship has a new online system and would love for you to have access to it. If you are new to PF, simply register for a new account. And if you have had connection with us, you most likely have an account already, we just need your email address. The easiest way to do this is simply email us **office@portlandfellowship.com** or give us a call **503.235.6364**. Once you log on, you will be able to update your information, take a short survey, see any giving history, and set up a pledge for 2010.

or

-----Print, cut and return this portion-----

**2009 Year-End Communication and Gift Card**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**To access your account, please supply your email:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have committed or would like to commit \$\_\_\_\_\_ a month to Portland Fellowship for 2010.

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

My Check is included or please charge my visa/debit or M/C:

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the back of this card to communicate with us.  
portland fellowship po box 14841 portland, oregon 97293 – www.portlandfellowship.com  
*Your generous giving is tax-deductible*