



PORTLAND  
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update June 2009

The men and women who come to Portland Fellowship set a high standard of faith for all of us. They may not feel like they are being courageous, but when people come through our door seeking help for shameful sexual and relational sin, they are not unlike those men and women who came to Jesus for healing. They came not asking much; just that He would touch them. And he marveled at their faith. I marvel at the faith of our participants.

I also realize that every aspect of this ministry must be grounded in strong faith: a trust that God will hear the cries of His children and once more move to meet the broken heart with his healing touch. It is by faith that we accept God's protection over our ministry – our house, our leaders, and our leaders' families. It is by faith that we need to make our decisions about the future, and to boldly reach further and further into our broken world with the message of sexual redemption.

It is also by faith that we must receive God's provision for this ministry. My dad (I now again call him Dad, not Jim, as he is no longer my employee), is often quoting an old missionary saying, "God's work done in God's way will have God's provision." That makes sense. And it follows, that if we ask our participants to have faith in God, we, who direct this ministry, must also do our work by faith.

The recent changes in the economy have affected PF in a number of ways. Some of our volunteer leaders have lost part or all of their income. Many of our participants are experiencing financial stress, and these stresses show up in their prayer requests and in the weekly reports they make in their small groups.

PF has also experienced a marked drop in monthly income. We, like so many others, need to bear the common burden of "tightening the belt" and doing the most we can with every precious gift. This is especially difficult, however, for a ministry where personnel costs represent the majority of the budget. As director, I see behind every "line item" the realities in our staff members' lives – their housing costs, their children, and their ever-increasing health care – the same needs most of you struggle to meet. So what to say?

I believe the answer lies in faith; and in faith is *vocation* – what is God calling us to do? How is He asking us to trust Him? What is the step (if not *leap*) of faith that He is asking of us. If God has called PF into being, and continues to call men and women to come here for healing. If we are doing this work in a way in which God approves, then we must trust that He will provide all we need.

We must also trust that you, our supporters will hear God's call and respond in the same faith. And that is what I would request of you – all I would expect – I'll ask it boldly: live by *faith*.



"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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It might be helpful to know that PF continues its ministry through a large number of relatively small gifts. Occasionally we get a grant for remodeling or equipment purchases, but the day-to-day operation is supported by *faithfulness* – that is, the consistent response of those of you who regularly give. Your gift matters very much, even if it seems small to you. It does not to us, and certainly it does not seem small to God. Remember the widow in the temple! (Luke 21:2-3).

If you are a regular reader of this newsletter and have not begun providing financial support, I urge you to ask God if this is *your* vocation. It may not be. And it may be that your support is coming to us through your prayers or in another way. But please know that even a small beginning will make a difference for us, because another faithful person (you) will have come alongside us in this way. Your act of faith will embrace those courageous men and women who come into this ministry, responding to what God is asking of them.

Late one afternoon, many years ago, twelve men approached Jesus with concern. With thousands of people getting hungry, and only five loaves of bread and two fish, it seemed impossible to feed them all. Yet *by faith*, Jesus, looking to heaven gave thanks and began passing out the food until all were satisfied and, remarkably, twelve basketfuls were left over.

What a God we serve! A faithful God, who accomplishes everything He sets out to do. Thank you for being a part of this amazing work and thank you for your faithfulness in Christ our Lord.



Jason Thompson  
Executive Director

### deeply rooted

Our annual summer series will be held every Tuesday night from 7-9 pm starting July 7th through August 25th. Our focus this year will be: **Jesus the Center**. We will explore how Jesus lived and taught us to live a rich, whole, and faithful life. Struggles with same-sex attraction are not at the core of who we are, Jesus is.

This group will be open to anyone who is interested. For planning purposes, call and let us know if you will be attending some or all of the sessions. There is a suggested \$25 donation for the series. Please bring your Bible and a notebook.

### counseling

The Portland Fellowship staff makes time for counseling and mentoring appointments each week. If you are in need of extra or on-going support as you walk through the process of healing and growth please contact us.

### pray

...for Jim Thompson as he retires from faithful service at Portland Fellowship. He will continue to serve as a mentor for many through the ReachTruth.com program and for future participants in the *Upper Room Program*. Ask God to grant him deep rest and enjoyment in this next season of his life.

...for our new *Taking Back Ground* graduates. May they be filled with the strength and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ as they walk in joy and perseverance. May they be surrounded with significant support and encouragement daily.

...for time to reflect and rest, as our staff and ministry leaders take a few months off from the *Taking Back Ground* ministry year. Ask God to bless us with deep intimacy with our Savior and sweet times with our families.

**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

**June 7**

*Rolling Hills Community Church*  
Jason Thompson representing PF at the Mission Fair gathering.

**June 19**

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

**June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

*Open Group*  
The name says it all. Opportunities for anyone to come and participate in a group discussion about same-sex attraction and related topics.  
7 p.m.

**July 14-18**

*Exodus International Conference*  
Annual Conference in Wheaton, IL  
Contact [www.exodus.to](http://www.exodus.to) for details.

Check website for additional updates at [www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com)