

Dear Friend,

December 2010

This year marks my twenty-first year of involvement at Portland Fellowship, which means that I have spent more than half my life at PF! I never would have imagined the day I walked through the doors, scared and hopeless, that I would be serving here all these years. Yet, it's fascinating to know that God knew exactly what was in store for me and for this ministry.

I remember the office at the Hinson Annex, which included a small resource table, a phone line, and a group of chairs where people would gather to share their lives with one other. Since then, I've had the privilege of watching the ministry grow into what it is today.

Each year, God has opened new doors to share the message of hope. We have had the opportunity to minister to hundreds of men and women, to appear on numerous television shows, share in many churches, to travel and speak internationally, to develop one-of-a-kind resources through the internet, and the list could go on. The boast is not in what we have accomplished, but rather in the amazing opportunities which God has afforded us. The truth is that God has used you to help accomplish all of this work.

I've been asked, even as recently as today, how long I plan to stay at Portland Fellowship. The answer is usually the same, 'as long as God is doing this amazing work here and He allows me to be a part of it!' I've seen that response in many of you. So many people have partnered with Portland Fellowship over the years. There are so many others, like you, who have remained faithful to the ministry and we are extremely grateful for it.

Because of your faithfulness, God has used you to be a part of the transformation of people's lives, and has met the needs of operating this ministry. My personal faith has been strengthened greatly as I've watched God provide exactly what we have needed in the season we have needed it. I was profoundly amazed when God provided the funds we needed to buy the Fellowship House in 2004, eliminating facility overhead. In 2005, a loving couple, who had experienced the loss of their son, blessed PF by installing a much needed gas furnace in the basement, as well as offering a generous gift to the ministry. Throughout the decade we saw continued support from those who have been with us since the beginning years, as well as many new friends choosing to invest in this Kingdom work. I wish I could mention you all by name, simply to show our gratitude and appreciation.

The careful balance of trusting God to provide for our needs and being intentional stewards has been a rewarding challenge. When my dad, Jim Thompson, retired from the ministry last year, we made the choice to take on his responsibilities rather than hiring additional staff. Drew Berryessa has done a great job directing the Upper Room Program and Cynthia has taken on many additional tasks beyond her job description, and is doing an amazing job as well. In addition to stream lined staffing, we have utilized more volunteers, tapped into a bit of our financial reserves, and cut back on most of our expense. All of this, along with your continued gifts, has continued to sustain the work here.

Our hope is to continue to be good stewards, especially during these lean times, and also to ask you, our support, to prayerfully consider how you can continue being a part of God's provision here at Portland Fellowship. The first request is to ask if you would consider being a faithful financial supporter for 2011. Your ongoing commitment can be communicated through the response card or from your profile online. The second request is to ask you to consider a special year-end gift to the ministry. Because we have used some of our reserves, we would like to restore what was used and end the year in the black. The final request is for those who have not been as negatively affected by the economy. Would you consider increasing your gifts to the ministry? Our desire is to grow our staff and resources to meet the ongoing needs of our churches and our culture. We continue to be a small but impactful ministry dealing with a huge issue. We do not want to be a ministry that just offers the minimal support. We seek to offer the amount of time, love, and support needed for those coming to us, who are searching for hope and freedom.

I am in this for the long haul, not simply out of obedience, rather out of a great delight in God's amazing work here. I hope and pray that you will continue in this long haul with me. I pray that you will not grow weary in your participation with us. We need you, value you, and are grateful for you. I pray that you have a wonderful Christmas celebration and a blessed New Year.

In His Faithfulness,

Jason Thompson Executive Director

Two options to support the work of Portland Fellowship:

Go online at <u>www.portlandfellowship.com</u> and Click "Sign In"

If you are receiving this letter by mail or email, you already have an account, simply call or email us for information about your username and password.

If you have not contacted with Portland Fellowship before, please start a "New account" or give us a call.

or

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2010 Year-End Communication and Gift Card



I have committed or would like to commit \$_____ a month to Portland Fellowship for 2011. Enclosed is a **year-end gift** in the amount of \$_____.

Please charge my visa/debit or M/C: Card	
Number:	_ Exp. Da
Signature	

Please use the back of this card to communicate with us. portland fellowship po box 14841 portland, oregon 97293 *Remember your generous giving is tax-deductible*