



PORTLAND  
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update june 2010

For those who don't know, PF's programs run on a similar schedule as an academic year, taking a break from the normal programming through the summer months. Consequently, this is the time of year at Portland Fellowship when we get a chance to take a big, slow, deep breath and reflect on what has transpired over the last program year. This year, in particular, has left me with a lot to reflect back on.

Two programs came to an end this last week: Our *Taking Back Ground* program, and our *Upper Room Discipleship Program*. The graduation celebration for *Taking Back Ground* is a night unlike any other. It is the culmination of two years of walking alongside people on their journey towards wholeness. Jason, our Executive Director, made a keen observation that really highlights the significance of this night. As he welcomed friends and family members of our participants, he reflected on the journey our participants had been on for the last two years. He shared his perspective on the fact that so few believers devote much energy to personal wholeness, much less devote two whole years into a difficult and painful process of growth, discipleship, and healing like the *Taking Back Ground* graduates have done. Most people, it seems, are content to compartmentalize struggles or just do effective "sin management." But what we got to celebrate the other night is so much different. It is a night when we get to look back and acknowledge the transformation that God has done in the lives of these men and women, in such a short period of time. It is a night where the family and friends of our participants get to step into the world of PF and see and hear all that God has done firsthand. It is a night of victory, laughter, joy, hope, and an obscene amount of food. It was a great night!



*Drew on a recent hike on Saddle Mountain with interns Archie, Brian, and Tim*

The second program that came to an end this last week was the Upper Room Discipleship Program. This program, in particular, has provided quite a bit of reflection for me this last week. This last fall Upper Room Manager Steve Baliko accepted a position with Multnomah County just a few weeks before the beginning of the program year. With Steve's departure, I had the unexpected blessing of finding myself in a leadership role for The Upper Room. I had the privilege of mentoring each of the men in the program this last year. These men devoted nine months out of their life to live in community and walk into intense discipleship, making themselves vulnerable with one another, and with the staff of PF.

To say that it was an incredible experience walking alongside these men in this journey would be an understatement. Each of these men let us as a community, as well as me as their mentor, into

"He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners."

ISAIAH 61 : 1

post office box 14841  
portland, oregon 97293  
telephone 503\_235\_6364  
fax 503\_235\_3896  
e-mail pf@portlandfellowship.com  
portlandfellowship.com

intensely personal areas of their lives. To have a front row seat while God intensely refines a person, taking layers off of defenses, or bringing clarity to personal struggles, or defining and honing talents and skills, all the while doing so in a community where each change in the individual effects each other person in the community, pushing them deeper into what God has planned...it is truly one of the most beautiful and difficult processes I have ever been a part of. And truly, the most unexpected of blessings. I will be forever grateful that God allowed me this opportunity.

Like I said before, this is the time of year at PF when we get to stop, reflect, breath, and assess the previous year. Never since joining the staff here at Portland Fellowship has there been a more challenging, demanding, and yet so incredibly rewarding and fulfilling program year for me. So, as I stop and reflect about what this last year held, all I am left to do is thank God for the privilege I have to walk alongside so many who have so passionately determined to walk after Jesus. What a blessing!

In Christ,



Drew Berryessa  
Program Manager



Jason and Drew on the summit of Saddle Mountain with interns Archie, Brian, and Tim. This year, much like that hike, has been a rewarding journey.

### pf alumni group

Have you graduated from Taking Back Ground, but wished there was another option for ongoing support? The classes are over, but does the struggle to deal with same-sex attraction remain? Perhaps you've heard it all, but now it's time to receive and give encouragement to walk further into personal wholeness. If so, the PF Alumni monthly meeting may be just right for you—a place to be real, find encouragement, remember the next steps, and apply them in your life. The sharing, discussion and prayer are for those who wish to strengthen and draw close to God and others in healthy relationships, regardless of where you are right now. (Perfect people need not attend!)

*The Alumni Group will be meeting the second wednesday of the month. Please contact the office with any questions.*

### low cost counseling

We currently have a counselor available onsite for ongoing, low cost, support. Sharon has an in-depth understanding of those struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions. Sharon is available for men, women, youth, family and friends. For more information or an appointment, contact us at 503.235.6364.

### prayer requests

Please pray for our staff and leaders as we head into a time of rest and recovery. Pray that the Lord will encourage us and renew our strength.

Please pray for the protection and continued growth of our participants as they move into the summer break.

Please pray for the men who are preparing for next year's Upper Room Program, that the Lord would open the doors and provide for their needs.

### events calendar

#### june 11

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

#### pf alumni group

*second wednesday*  
A place of connection and support for those who have completed the TBG program. Contact office for details.

#### exodus conference

*June 21-26*  
Jason and Drew will be attending the national conference in Irvine.

#### tuesday nights in july and august

*Sy Rogers Video Series*  
We will be viewing some of Sy's teachings and then breaking into small groups for discussion. Everyone welcome.  
7-9 pm

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

**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.