



Dear Fellowship Partners,

update june 2011

Discipleship is a risky undertaking. Making the decision to help people mature spiritually and grow more and more into the likeness of Christ is a task that will require more of you than you can ever predict, bring heartache and frustration beyond what you can expect, and bring more satisfaction and joy than almost anything else on earth. It is no wonder to me why it was the last instruction that our Lord left with His disciples; to go into the world and make more disciples... It truly is the Great Commission.

Discipleship is at the heart of everything that we do here at Portland Fellowship. Every program, every speaking engagement, every counseling appointment, has the same aim, to help people grow in maturity in Christ and become a more accurate reflection of His image. The context of discipleship may change, whether that is through our Taking Back Ground program, through the internet with reachtruth.com, with hurting family members at The Hope Group, or through the very unique and intense live-in discipleship program The Upper Room, the end goal is always the same.

For our readers who may be unfamiliar with the Upper Room Program, every year men and women come to Portland Fellowship and live together in community for nine months, participating in teaching and mentoring geared towards continued emotional and relational healing, spiritual disciplines, and leadership development. Every year the community that God brings together is unique in its personalities and needs, but every year this program provides a front row seat to the amazing work of healing and redemption that the Lord is famous for doing around here. This year was no different.

Last September six men began this discipleship journey, coming to PF from as close as Portland and Salem, and as far as Alaska and Brazil. In the first few weeks, as they shared their histories and testimonies with each other, it became clear why God had brought each of them to this program. There was an incredible amount of pain represented in our little community, and as God began to address the wounds and injuries of each man, the cost of discipleship became more and more apparent. I have watched as each of these men make difficult choices to follow Christ; choosing to trust the character and heart of God when the evidence and history of your life would compel you to doubt His character and His plan.

To say that this year was without pain or heartache would be a lie. We started this year with six Upper Room participants, and we ended this year with five. Along our journey one of our men made a decision to remove himself from the community. This was a very difficult moment for each of us in the Upper Room. The reality about our programs here at PF, and any discipleship for that matter, is that confronting your sin and immaturity and conforming to the image of Christ is incredibly difficult. Every year people drop out of each of our programs, and every time it is difficult to experience. That is where the heartache of discipleship comes in. When people abandon the journey it is only human nature to wonder what more could have been done to help the



Upper Room Interns Clif, Aaron, Phil, and Tim on a recent hike (Seth not pictured).

"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

person continue in the process. I recently received some wisdom on this from one of my Professors at Multnomah Bible College. I was sharing with him my feelings of failure and frustration over losing this participant when my Prof. reminded me that out of the twelve that Christ called to discipleship, only eleven persevered. Even Christ himself experienced the loss of a disciple.

A second piece of advice that my Professor gave me was to celebrate the successes. This is where the satisfaction and joy of being a discipler comes in. We may have lost an Upper Room participant this year; however, those who have stayed have been consistently and courageously surrendering their lives to Christ. It has been remarkable to see the healing and maturity that these men are walking into after only a short period of time. It would be fair to say that for some of them, it is almost as though they are discovering for the first time life beyond brokenness. It is awesome to see the recognition of healing taking place and the unfolding of new possibilities for these men. The journey is not over for any of them, but too see how each has responded to the Lord over the last nine months, gives me great hope that each will continue to experience freedom and healing in the Lord.

As we close out this program year we are already processing through applications for next year's Taking Back Ground and Upper Room programs. Each one of those applicants represents another eternal soul who is engaging in the process of becoming more like Christ. If experience has taught us anything here at PF, we know that this process will be difficult, and yet incredibly glorious. We know that not all who start will finish. We know that we will be stretched as we walk alongside the brave men and women, and finally we know that we will be doing what Christ has asked His followers to do, what we have devoted our lives to -making disciples of Jesus. Please join us in praying for those who are walking this journey, for those who have abandoned the journey, and for those yet to start!

Drew Berryessa



Program Manager

join us this summer...

For the months of July and August, Portland Fellowship will be offering a 9 week video series based on the book by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend's *Boundaries* - *Boundaries* is a study that will offer practical help and insight and for those who are seeking health and balance in their lives and relationships.

So who can join us in the journey to examine and establish boundaries? Anyone! Taking Back Ground Alumni, family, current participants, supporters or new friends of Portland Fellowship are all invited to come.

Take advantage of this free summer series and come be a part of the Portland Fellowship community; a community that desires to continue to walk in health, wholeness and holiness. Classes start Tuesday, July 5th at 7pm.

Please RSVP through:
cynthia@portlandfellowship, or
give us a call at 503.235.6364!

restoration in progress

During the early summer months, we will be painting the Fellowship House. We have a professional painter who pursued us with the desire to donate his time to restore the outside of the house. We are amazed and grateful for this gift. To accomplish this large task, we ask for your help. Would you be willing to take a day or two this summer and come join us for prepping, sanding, and painting? We will provide food and drinks and some great conversation. Also, if you are interested in helping underwrite the materials, we are hoping to raise \$6,500. Please contact us at 503.235.6364.

prayer requests

Please pray for our staff and leaders as we head into our summer months of both refreshment and planning for the next group of participants.

Pray the ministries of Taking Back Ground and The Hope Group are made known to all who are in need and that they will find the courage to contact the ministry.

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 17 & july 15

the hope group

Join us for our family and friends program for a time of prayer, encouragement, support, and a great meal. 7 pm.

June 8-11

exodus conference

This conference offers encouraging general sessions from well-known speakers, informational breakout sessions, and exciting times worship and fellowship with other believers who continue living in the reality of grace. Go to: www.exodusinternational.org for more info.

**tuesday nights in
july and august**

Boundaries Video Series

We will be offering this video and discussion series for those wishing to connect to the ministry during the summer months. 7-9 pm

Check website for additional updates
at **www.portlandfellowship.com**