



**PORTLAND**  
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update october 2011

It has become a bit of a tradition here at PF. Every Labor Day Jason and Amy Thompson open up their home and host an incredible welcome dinner for the incoming Upper Room interns. The evening starts with a spread of appetizers, followed by a delicious main course, and a dessert around the fire pit. This evening gives the staff an opportunity to warmly welcome our interns, get to know them a bit more, and set a relational tone for the year to come. It was in this fashion that we welcomed Chris, Brandon, Cody, Paul, and Omar. With our stomachs and hearts full, we anticipated yet another year of watching God work in the lives of this unique community.

Each of the five men in our program this year found the ministry of Portland Fellowship in a unique way, and they are each joining the Upper Room at different points in their own journeys of healing. Our first intern, Brandon, is a recent graduate of our Taking Back Ground program. Brandon grew up in Pendleton, OR, but moved to the Portland area to attend college. He was introduced to PF after confessing his struggle to his pastor. Although this pastor had never heard of Portland Fellowship, he was familiar with the ministry of Desert Stream, a similar organization to Exodus International. It was through this connection that Brandon was referred to PF, and it has been awesome to watch God work in this young man's life. Brandon applied to the Upper Room because he wants to develop a deeper intimacy with Jesus, and wants that relationship to further change his life.

Chris, who grew up in the Portland area, also recently completed Taking Back Ground, but his introduction to the ministry was quite different. I first met Chris several years ago when his parent, desperate for help, brought him along for an appointment. Back then, whenever there was a "tagalong" child of a parent with an appointment, Jim would take the parent, and I would meet with the child, letting them process what they were going through without any pressure or expectation. It would be over a year later that Chris would contact the ministry on his own and begin walking through this process. God continues to refine Chris in powerful ways, and it will be exciting to see what the Lord will do through this year of discipleship.

Cody, originally from Ohio, found PF after moving to Portland to attend college as well. It was a friend who referred him to our ministry after learning about Cody's struggle. Cody was in my small group for his first year of Taking Back Ground, and God continued to refine and disciple him through his second year in the program. This young man has an infectious laugh and brings a unique voice to this community.

Paul comes to PF from St Louis, MO. He was introduced to the ministry of Portland Fellowship through our online discipleship program Reachtruth.com. He is our first intern to join the Upper Room from involvement in Reachtruth. Paul recognized while going through the online course



*Please welcome our  
2011-12 Upper Room  
Interns (L-R) Omar, Chris,  
Brandon, Cody, and Paul*

*"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

that he needed deeper discipleship and a drastic change of scenery. Already, in the first few weeks of the Upper Room, God is dismantling and rebuilding Paul's concept of who he is, and who God is. It is awesome to watch.

Last but not least, is Omar. Omar was introduced to the ministry of Portland Fellowship through our sister ministry in Quito, Ecuador. For many years PF has had a relationship with Camino de Salida (The Way Out), a referral ministry of Exodus Latin America. Both Jason and PF founding Director Phil Hobizal have made trips to Ecuador to serve this ministry. It was through one of these trips that Omar met Phil, and a connection to PF was established. Omar applied to the Upper Room with similar motivation as the others here this year, to encounter Christ in a deeper way, and submit to a deeper process of discipleship. It is such a blessing to be able to have Omar as a part of this community this year.

Sitting around the fire that first night with this great group of guys, my mind wandered back ten years. It was ten years ago this September that I began the Upper Room as one of the first group of interns at PF. I thought about how much the Lord has done in my life since that first welcome dinner, and as I sat among this group of men, I couldn't help but wonder what their lives will reveal over the course of a decade. I am so encouraged by what God is already doing in the lives of the men in this community. I invite you to pray for these men, who each came to this place seeking the hand of God on their lives. This journey of discipleship is a difficult path. Pray also for the staff of PF, that we will be in step with God as we lead these men.

In Christ,



Drew Berryessa  
Program Manager

### nov 18-19: ignite!

This free conference will help you learn how to experience more of God everyday through the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. Are you a Christ-follower feeling a bit burned out? Maybe you've reached the limits of your own ingenuity, talents, and gifts. There's a better way to follow Jesus than walking in your own strength. "Dip a toe" into the living waters, catch the Holy Spirit's flame and grow in faithfulness to Jesus Christ!

Conference to be held at Portland Fellowship. Please register in advance to reserve your materials and seat at [www.ignitePDX.org](http://www.ignitePDX.org). Lunch is available on Saturday for \$15, or you may bring your own. If you have any questions or special needs, you may email or call Dan Summerfeldt at [dan@lendscape.com](mailto:dan@lendscape.com) or 503-804-9276.

### low cost counseling

We 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. Pray that the Lord will encourage us and renew our strength as we serve those the Lord has brought to us.

Please pray for our Taking Back Ground participants as they begin pressing in to this process this year.

Please pray for the men in our Upper Room Program; that they will surrender to the Lord's refining work.

Please pray that the Lord will continue to provide for the needs of 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

#### taking back ground

*tuesday evenings*  
Discipleship program for men and women struggling with unwanted same-sex attraction. Begins first Tuesday in October.

**oct 21**

#### Family and Friends Group

For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality. Come and enjoy fellowship, a meal, and encouragement.  
3rd Friday of the month:  
6:30 p.m.

**nov 12**

#### bridges conference

Drew will be speaking at this conference for youth ministry workers.

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