

## December 2013

Serving Him,

## Dear Friends of Portland Fellowship

As we conclude this year and prepare for 2014, I write to you with great appreciation for your generous partnership in this transforming work. As we have done for over 30 years, we continue to stand faithful, serving the body of Christ, for those who have been impacted by same-sex attraction and sexual identity confusion. Although the year came with several challenges regarding pressure from the culture, and even confusion within the church, we finish the year with a deep sense of thankfulness, gratitude, and hope.

While it is Drew, Cynthia and I who staff Portland Fellowship, you are also in this effort with us. It is your gifts and prayers that make this ministry possible, and because of this, lives are changed. I pray that you will not only know this, but receive the blessing and joy that come with your partnership.

The call to serve at Portland Fellowship is truly rewarding. You can read some of the stories through our newsletters or on our website, but there are many more stories that do not get shared. Just last week, I received and call from a man who disclosed that he was considering suicide because of this unwanted struggle. I was grateful to have the opportunity to speak hope and peace into his life. Drew also told me of a conversation he had with a former intern. The intern, who once was deeply struggling with troubling issues, expressed how he has found tremendous victory; he no longer requires someone to pour into him, but rather in his growth, he can now pour into the lives of others. We look forward to sharing many more stories, like these, in the years ahead.

The call to serve at PF is also challenging and humbling. It is not easy to stand firm in the truth of the Gospel of Christ, and specifically in the area of biblical sexual ethics. Each person on staff has experienced loss of relationships or a measure of persecution from others. It is by the grace of God and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, that we stay grounded in this upside-down world. As we read in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God."

We ask you to please continue with us. Thank you for considering a year-end gift and your offerings into the New Year. And on a personal note, I ask for your prayers for God's anointing, blessing and wisdom over the work He has called me to do. I desire nothing less.

On behalf of the staff, our volunteers, and the Board of Directors, we at Portland Fellowship wish you and your family the Lord's grace and peace this Christmas and in the New Year.

Jan on though	
Jason Thompson	
Executive Director	
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