



PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL CHURCH *of* CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 7 • 2003

"Committed to the grace of God..." Act 14:26

Times of Refreshing Will Come

Acts 19:18, 20 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds...In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

God was glorified on Wednesday August 13th, as many leaders and members confessed their sins during Portland Church's "Evening of Atonement." God has disciplined and Satan has vigorously attacked the church in Portland as we have gone through many trials this calendar year; the lead evangelist and his wife left the ministry in April, Bible Talks and Discipleship Partners were abandoned, key members of the legal board were asked to resign, the relationship with the San Francisco Church of Christ was questioned with bitterness, and half of the listed membership of 237 either left to worship separately or stopped attending church altogether.

The formal split occurred in June. Elena and I became the evangelist and women's ministry leader in mid-July. During this past month, to help unify all the injured brothers and sisters, we have initiated conversations with almost all of the leaders of the "separate group", as well as all the current members (by house church) of the Portland Church. This was a very sad but revealing period. It became clear to us that if there was any hope of reconciliation of the departed members, the present leadership needed to confess where they sinned during the past few years as well as during the tumultuous past few weeks. The Portland leaders confessed insensitivity, arrogance, lack of love, and cowardice. It was also very obvious that many of the members had reacted to the sins of the leaders with the sins of anger,

bitterness, factions, and slander. I, personally, was moved by the confessions as they were all very sincere and many were done with tears. I will never forget that momentous evening.

As for the future direction of the Portland Church, the House Church Leaders and the ministry staff are the recognized leadership of the congregation. We will begin a revised First Principles series in September. Also, Bible Talks will be our key unit of organization. We will strongly emphasize and teach discipling, as seen in the ministries of Jesus and the apostles. Discipleship partners will be chosen by each member. Each member will be able to define whether the relationship is a teacher/student (discipling) relationship or an adult/adult relationship. We will select deacons in October. Our contribution for the work of the church will be asked on Sundays as a free will contribution. (The House Church Leaders will no longer be the "tax collectors" of the congregation). We will have a poor collection at midweek, which will first meet the needs of our members, and the remainder will be given to HOPEworldwide.

Of special note, we in Portland are working to bring together individuals in the San Francisco Church and the Portland Church to form the Eugene Oregon church mission team. There are presently seven disciples in Eugene (home of the University of Oregon) waiting for the official beginning of the church.

We in the Portland Church recognize that the "Evening of Atonement" was simply a beginning, (albeit an extraordinary one). For us to be God's church, we must see atonement to be a continual process of healing and reconciliation. Only through humility can God's Spirit and blood continue wash and purify the church. On the following Sunday our church service was blessed as Rahnie Grant was baptized. Truly God blesses repentance with times of refreshing! (Acts 3:19)

All of us in the Portland Church ask for your prayers for the evangelization of Oregon. We send greetings to all our brothers and sisters around the world.

Pray for our boldness.
Kip McKean

"Knelt down...prayed...wept..." Act 20:36-37

- Eugene Church planting
- Vancouver ministry
- Latin ministry
- Chemical Recovery ministry
- Joshua Lunde protect from seizures
- Nancy Ruano - kidney and other complications
- Elvira Perez - health complications



"Miracles, wonders and signs..." Acts 2:22



... "for I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, ... "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart..." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Young Christians: Rahnie, Selina, Omar, and Kathryn

"...the Lord added to their number..." Acts 2:47

Sunday's Attendance: 222	Contribution: 4825
Baptisims: August 17, 2003	Rahnie Grant 503.246.0973
August 24, 2003	Omar Valdovinos 503.258.1465
August 24, 2003	Selina Valdovinos 503.258.1465
August 28, 2003	Kathryn Whittington 503.481.5336

"They devoted themselves..." Acts 2:42

Sunday, Sept 7th, 10:00 am
Church Service
Portland Conference Center

Friday, Sept 12th, 7:30 pm
Midweek Service
Milikan Conference Center

Sunday, Sept 14th, 10:00 am
Church Service
Portland Conference Center

Friday, Sept 19th, 7:30 pm
Midweek Service
Portland Conference Center



"They preached the word wherever they went..." Acts 8:4

House Churches

East Portland

Jeremy & Amy Ciaramella
503.232.5986

SE Portland

Greg & Janice Damian
503.238.4638

SW Portland

Alan & Lisa Hess
503.380.4607 / 503.750.2977

Hillsboro

Nick & Denise Bordieri
971.404.7984 / 971.404.7983

Jr. High & Pre-teens

Aaron Mullins & Shannon Smith
503.332.1648 / 503.330.1995

Aloha

Jeff & Meka Hernandez
503.848.3650

Encore / Salem

Ed & Marna Damian
503.841.3673

Campus & Teens

Kian & Carleen Nikzi
503.848.3300

Singles I

Paul Grover & Natalie Toogood
503.998.5177 / 503.885.2494

Singles II

Michael & Michele Williamson
Mike Reist & Dana Benedict
503.234.6147

"Bringing you good news..." Acts 14:15

Evangelist and Women's Ministry Leader: Kip & Elena McKean
Campus & Teen Ministry Leaders: Kian & Carleen Nikzi

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