



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update august 2010

Some of our most joyful moments in life come with the announcement of good news! The news of a long-awaited pregnancy, the news of securing a much needed job, or the news of that cancer being completely gone. *“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good news of happiness, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’”*

At Portland Fellowship, there are many family and friends who have seen loved ones abandon their faith and follow the way that seems right to them, but in the end leads to destruction. The grief and sadness, experienced by the family and friends, causes them to pray; and this prayer is accompanied by the hope that one day they will hear the good news of their loved one returning to the Lord.

While I was at the Exodus Conference this past June, I received an email from a mom who I met many years ago. Her son, Jordan, was 16 at the time and was making the decision to submit his homosexual desires to the Lord. A few years later, I received a difficult call sharing that Jordan had chosen to live a gay life and had left the church. But now I share, with joy, part of an email that was sent by both his mom and Jordan himself:



Dear Church Family,

Just as our elders were poised to begin the letter of ex-communication to our dear son Jordan (who had no knowledge of this), an email surfaced in our box on Monday morning. We are now rejoicing in the return of our Prodigal Son and hope to kill the fatted calf and have you all join in with us for a time of feasting and celebration. - Here is (part) of his email:

Family,

I want to come home with a heart of repentance, prepared to do whatever necessary to leave this lifestyle behind and to follow Christ (and only Christ). The truth is, I don't know how to reconcile a gay lifestyle with my faith, and I don't think I will ever be able to.

I know that this is the Godly decision and that there will be infinite (quite literally) blessing that comes from it, but I also know that there will be a very immediate difficulty of backing my way out of my current life, habits, thought patterns, social connections, work environment, etc. There are some major challenges that I see ahead, some practical and some ideological, and I want to use my time at home to talk with you and others about how to begin overcoming these issues, because frankly, I need help.

The main issue? My pride and my general feeling that if I work hard enough, I can

“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

solve any issue. I know that I can't, and I will need to constantly remind myself that without Christ, I am nothing. I guess the long and short of all of this is that I'll need a lot of support, and at the same time will feel a tug to resist that support whenever my pride kicks in. Please pray for me in this area especially.

I love you all so much and I want to be a part of my immediate family and the Church family once again.

Jordan

I was so encouraged to read this email from Jordan and his mom. I'm glad to know that God is constantly at work, both in those who continue to submit their lives to Him and even those who try to run from Him. Would you take a moment and pray for Jordan? Pray also for the many others who are on the run or are lost, that they may return to the Father.



In His Service,


Jason Thompson
Executive Director

adopt an intern

The nine months that our Upper Room Program interns spend here at Portland Fellowship has, in the past, proven to be very challenging. This next program year, we have five men beginning this journey, and each is going to have a different set of challenges to contend with. Certainly, God has a point and a purpose for the trials and challenges. We would like to help these interns by giving them support and encouragement on this challenging journey.

For the first time, we are offering you the opportunity to "Adopt an Intern". Adopting an intern will give you an opportunity to provide a little extra financial support, encouragement, and prayer coverage for one of these men who are committing the next 9 months of their lives to serve and be transformed by Jesus. *If you are interested in learning more about adopting an intern, contact drew@portlandfellowship.com.*

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.

Pray the word gets out for those needing the Taking Back Ground program

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

august 13

Family and Friends Group
For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement, and personal support.
2nd Friday only this month: 7 p.m.

pf alumni group

second thursday of each month
A place of connection and support for those who have completed the TBG program.
Contact office for details.

tuesday nights

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

taking back ground

We are now taking applications for the *Taking Back Ground* program starting in October.
Please take the time to ask your church to promote the program.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com