



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update april 2012

Whether we are mindful of it or not, all of life is a journey. We are all going somewhere. Many of us have felt that we had no power over the outcome of that journey – then Christ came into our lives as Redeemer, as Savior, and as our friend.

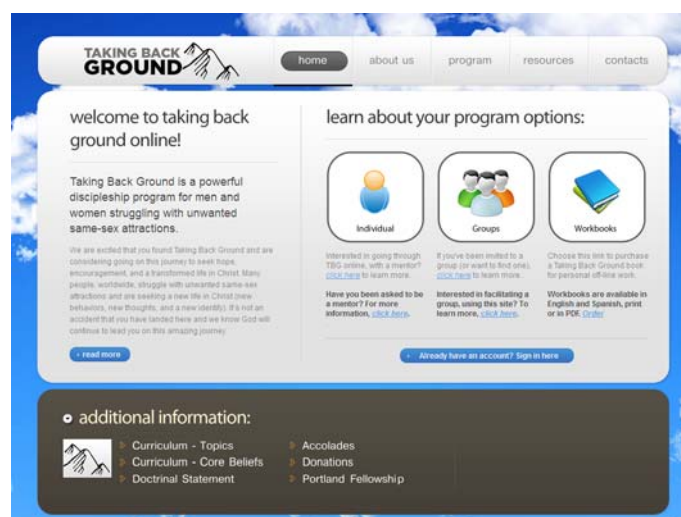
For those struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions, the journey over the years has been hindered by a lack of hopeful resources. Many have felt trapped in living a life filled with shame and secrecy, but ultimately have been longing for biblical answers that would bring hope of restoration and victory to their lives.

And yet, God has not been silent to the cries of those individuals who have wanted freedom from the lies of the enemy, and the grip he has had over them. In His wisdom, God has used faithful men and women (who have walked with the Lord and experienced His power to address their deepest needs) to now lead and instruct others. With each year that passes, more understanding is being given to offer tangible hope for those courageous enough to take the journey away from a homosexual identity.

As I shared with you last month, we are unveiling our *Taking Back Ground* program in a new and dynamic way, that will be reaching many men and women around the world. *Taking Back Ground* is a discipleship series that becomes a journey for those wanting to know the power of Christ to change and restore their identity. Hundreds of people over the years have participated in this series. Their lives, and their courage to walk in a way contrary to the voice of our culture, continues to be evidence of God's amazing power to transform lives.

The name, *Taking Back Ground*, is a statement of faith. God did not make a person homosexual. Rather, it is the result of many factors which have culminated into a confused self-image. By faith, we set out to “take back” our true identities in Christ, as His sons and daughters. The foundation of who we are (that “ground”) then becomes a solid place for us to build our futures – a future that reflects Christ's intent for our lives. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Phil Hobizal and Rebecca Wade, who wrote the material; and we are also grateful for the contributions of many pioneers in this work, such as Elizabeth Moberly, Andy Comiskey, Joe Dallas, Bob Davies, Frank Worthen, Sy Rogers, and many others.

For many years, we have been leading *Taking Back Ground* at the Fellowship House in Portland, Oregon. But now, we extend an invitation to anyone, around the world, to join us through the internet. www.takingbackground.com is now available for your participation and for your referral. The program works in many ways like our www.reachtruth.com program. To participate, you will need a friend (or what we call a mentor) to join you. We want this to be a relational experience, therefore, we programmed it with relationship in mind.



“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

learn about your program options:

The screenshot shows three main options for program participation:

- Individual:** Interested in going through TBG online, with a mentor? [click here](#) to learn more. Have you been asked to be a mentor? For more information, [click here](#).
- Groups:** If you've been invited to a group (or want to find one), [click here](#) to learn more. Interested in facilitating a group, using this site? To learn more, [click here](#).
- Workbooks:** Choose this link to purchase a Taking Back Ground book for personal offline work. Workbooks are available in English and Spanish, print or in PDF, [click here](#).

At the bottom, there is a button: [Already have an account? Sign in here](#)

www.takingbackground.com is different than Reach Truth in a few ways. The material is much more in-depth, and it covers a host of important topics. Also, the video teachings are filmed on location from our program series which is 42 weeks in length (see *lessons below*). In addition, www.takingbackground.com has a “Group Option”. If you would like to lead a TBG group, you are able to sign up as a facilitator and lead by using our videos and our material (all web-based). As a facilitator, you would be responsible for organizing the facility, connecting with your members, and leading discussions.

The Reach Truth program is still available, and is more applicable to younger audiences or those who can only commit to 20 weeks. For complete information about how the program can work for you as an individual or as a group member/facilitator, please log-on to the site and read the description pages.

As always, these amazing resources would not be available if it were not for your ongoing prayer and financial support. Thank you!

Enjoying Him,

Jason Thompson
Executive Director

tbg year one

Understanding Homosexuality

A Call to Leave: The Journey Begins
The Roots of Male Homosexuality
Lesbianism – Uncovering the Roots
Our Relational Nature
Defensiveness and Detachment
The Scriptures and Homosexuality
Transformation

Knowing God in Our Struggle

Redemption: God’s Message of Hope
The Way of the Cross
The Marred Image of the Father
Idolatry
Developing an Intimacy with Christ
Empowering the Will
New Life in Christ

Walking Out The Process

The Battle for Our Souls
The Root of Rejection
Forgiveness
Reconciliation
Temptation
Walking in Victory
Accountability

tbg year two

Developing A Healthy Identity

What Does Healing Look Like?
Masculinity
Femininity
Boundaries
Same-Sex Relationships
Emotional Dependency
Levels of Relationship

Relations & Intimacy

Addiction
Pornography and Masturbation
Deception: The Power of Unbelief
Narcissism
Our Identity in Christ
Envy
Repentance

Growing in Christian Maturity

Beyond the Ex-Gay Plateau
Disclosure
Marriage or Singleness
Procrastination & Ambivalence
Dealing with Failure
A Call to Servanthood
Safeguarding Our Souls

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

april 12

Concordia University

A class that shares very different views about human sexuality
Jason Thompson presenting

april 25

Multnomah University Class visit to Portland Fellowship
Drew Berryessa presenting

april 20

Family and Friends Group
For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement, and personal support 7 p.m.

tuesday nights

Taking Back Ground
Discipleship program for men and women struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions 7-10 pm

thursday afternoons

Upper Room Community

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com