PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update october 2012

As always, many changes are taking place within our culture around many issues. The sheer volume of information available today, and the speed at which it is available and can be distributed, is unlike that of any time in human history. This rapid distribution of information, seems to be picking up momentum, widening the gap between a Biblical world view and "The World's View" at an ever-faster pace. Materialism, vanity, self-centeredness, and godlessness are often portrayed as virtues! Whereas ideals that used to be considered virtues, such as humility, moderation, frugality, and chastity are disdained and mocked, both in word and deed. Sadly, many of the values and philosophies loved by the world find their way into our homes and churches. Perhaps, not unexpectedly, these values can even be found within formerly faithful, God-fearing ministries.

From the opening chapters to the very end, the Bible teaches us who God is, what He is like and the kind of people He wants us to be. God has clearly presented the model of a life lived *with*, *by* and *for* Him. He knows we sin and has provided redemption for us through His Son's death and resurrection. God's church has faithfully believed and taught this over millennia, while the world has continually moved away from this truth.

I have been a supporter of Portland Fellowship for at least sixteen years, having served on the board for the last seven, and am grateful that God has kept His story of redemption and mercy at the heart of what Portland Fellowship does every day. Just as we strive to learn and pass down Scripture, unchanged, to future generations, rather than to adapt it to the changing moods of society, Portland Fellowship follows carefully-crafted mission and doctrinal statements to guide the ministry and keep it faithful to the truth. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to ensure that the ministry stays true to its God-given mission. I give thanks to God that His redemption through faith in Christ is still central to the ministry that takes place at Portland Fellowship. For there really is no other hope to offer those who have found that their lives are broken and that they are unable to restore or repair the brokenness.

It is with humility that I serve, astonished that I get to participate in a small way in the redemption story of the many people who come to Portland Fellowship. I am grateful for the support of many others, like you, who participate in big and small ways. Some pray; some counsel; some paint or clean or swing a hammer; or mow a lawn; some sing or teach; others give financially, or simply stand with us in holding to the truth of God's word and following the mission that He laid out for us. All are a blessing.

Sincerely,

Eric Murfitt
Board Chair

"He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners."

ISAIAH 61 : 1

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Restored Hope Network

Networking is a vital aspect of the ministry we do. It is not only vital for those seeking help, but for those serving as leaders to connect with one another for support, encouragement, sharing of resources, and prayer. On September 21, a group of leaders from around the country came together in Sacramento, California, to help complete the formation of the 'Restored Hope Network'.

This is only the infant stage of what we hope becomes a dynamic, nationally recognized, and utilized ministry network. Some of the important tasks to work on include the completion of the bylaws, doctrinal statement, member ministry requirements and process. This will take time, but the newly formed board is hard at work to develop a strong, compassionate, and Biblically grounded network.

Praying from both ends: Carl and Gary, Board - left to right: David, Robert, Ron, Anne, Andrew, Stephen, Jason,

Jason Thompson was elected as one the of seven board members. Other members include: Andrew Comiskey (author of the Living Waters Program) from Desert Stream Ministries; Robert Gagnon, professor at Pittsburg Theological Seminary; Anne Paulk, author of "Restoring Sexual Identity"; David Kyle Foster of Mastering Life Ministries, (the television ministry behind *Pure Passion*, a television program); Stephen Black, founder of Oklahoma City-based First Stone Ministry; and Ron Smith, director of New Hope Ministry.

The desire is for Portland Fellowship to move toward membership in the Restored Hope Network, but currently the network is still in the formative stages. Please pray for this continued process, that we all seek the Lord's wisdom and leading.

2012-2013 Upper Room Program Begins

The Upper Room is a live-in discipleship community. Every year, individuals come to Portland Fellowship to live together in intentional community; they participate in teaching and mentoring, geared toward emotional and relational healing, the implimentation of spiritual disciplines, and personal development. Although the instruction and counseling that each receive is beneficial, the most life changing element of this experience is the Holy Spirit's work through the relational dynamic of living in community. The majority of the wounds that people walk into Portland Fellowship with were created in the context of relationship, and it is only in relationship that those wounds can effectively be healed. The Upper Room provides a context where that relational healing can occur.

This year, we are welcoming six men into the Upper Room community: Curtis, Cody, Graham, Brandon, Chris, and Patrick. Please pray for them as they begin this exciting, yet challenging, 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

tuesday nights
october - november
Taking Back Ground
Discipleship program for men and women who struggle with same-sex attraction. Call the office if you are interested in attending.

october 12
Family and Friends Group
For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement, and personal support *6:30 p.m.*

october 17
Jason Speaking
Jason will be speaking at Multnomah University for their Marriage and Family class

november 9-10
Jason Speaking
Jason will be speaking at Multnomah University for their Graduate program (Counseling the Sexually Broken)

Check website for additional updates at ***www.portlandfellowship.com***