



PORTLAND  
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update august 2013

By now, most of you know the news regarding Exodus International shutting down their ministry. Alan Chambers, President of Exodus, announced this on the opening night of their Annual Conference in June. The night after this announcement, Alan was featured on the Lisa Ling program "Our America" apologizing to the gay community for the work of Exodus. Subsequently, the story was picked up by several national media outlets, which continued to drive home *his personal* belief that people do not change and that Exodus has damaged many lives.

All this was happening the same week that I was at the 2nd Annual Restored Hope Network Conference in Oklahoma City. The news was not a shock to us, but the timing caught us off guard. For the past 18 months, Exodus lost its footing, theologically. The leaders began to embrace a distorted understanding of grace that had no room for discipleship, surrender or confession. In a matter of time, there would be no purpose for Exodus and its affiliated ministries. Over a year ago, after many attempts to help steer the network back to biblical orthodoxy and healthy leadership, Portland Fellowship, along with many other ministries, had no other choice but to leave the Exodus Network.

As I have shared in previous updates, it is difficult to watch some Christian leaders give in to the world's deceptive thinking and abandon the sanctifying work of the Spirit. (*For more thoughts on how this happens, see June 2013 update*) What makes this even more troubling is that these few leaders have had a public platform and made *personal* statements that do not reflect the truth and accuracy of the redemptive message of Christ. As a result, many hear the message that transformation is not possible. The aftermath is devastating. Over the past month, I have received emails and calls from several impacted by this faulty message, including those associated with Exodus wanting to end their ministry, parents deeply upset and discouraged, and strugglers wondering if they should just give up and give in.



Jason speaking at the RHN conference in Oklahoma City, OK

For me personally, the resolve to trust in the truth and character of God has never been stronger. This great deception only illuminates God's truth all the more. I know this is not everyone's experience, but my hope and prayer for you as you read this, is a deepening of your faith and trust in God. This is a much needed reminder for all of us to never put our hope in man, or in a system, or in a particular leader of an organization, but rather to put our hope in God and God alone.

Alan is only the latest to create confusion and uncertainty, especially in the area of same-sex attractions and the healing work of God. He won't be the last. So instead of focusing on the confusion, we must fix our eyes on the Author and Finisher of our faith and His unchanging truth (Heb. 12:2). As we fix our eyes on Him, let us not grow discouraged, as we are not alone in this. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Heb 12:1)

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

ISAIAH 61 : 1

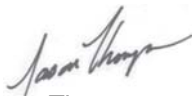
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God is still at work transforming lives. He was transforming His people in the infancy of the church, “and such were some of you.” (1 Cor. 6:11), and he is still doing this amazing work today. I’m sure I don’t need to tell you that this message is neither popular nor easy, so we must learn to persevere, and “let perseverance finish its work so that we may be mature and complete, not lacking anything” (James 1:4). The Christian faith is not about what we get or the life we want, but rather the dying to self for new life that is found in Christ (Rom.6:11). And as we surrender our fleshly desire and submit them to the Lordship of Christ, we trust in the amazing plans God has for us, “plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future” (Jer. 29:11).

God truly is giving us hope and a future. While many opponents are gloating at the demise of Exodus, God is still mightily at work, and nothing and nobody can stop it. We are excited about the many men and women who are coming to PF and how their lives will be transformed. We will continue to share the amazing testimonies of how God shows His love, mercy, and healing in all our lives. We are also excited about the growing ministry of Restored Hope Network (RHN). God, in His wisdom, had the foundations of RHN already in place, before Exodus shut its doors. We, at Portland Fellowship, are excited to be a part of this new network that is full of truth and grace. We are also pleased to share that we will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Restored Hope Network Conference here in Portland, Oregon, for the summer of 2014.

God is good and we are deeply grateful for His faithfulness, His provision, and protection. We are also grateful for you and your love and support of Portland Fellowship. May our partnership in this work continue to be a beacon of hope for this generation and the ones to come.

With the love of Christ,



Jason Thompson  
Executive Director

### supporter appreciation event

If you have been supporting the ministry of Portland Fellowship and live in the area, we will be sending you an invitation to a special evening at the Fellowship House.

The invitation will offer four different September evenings for you to choose from. We will also encourage you to invite a guest or couple to share in this event. This is not a fundraising, but rather a night to simply share our gratitude as well as introduce new people to this amazing ministry.



### announcing a new addition to the PF family...



We are pleased to share with you that on July 16, Drew and Suzanne Berryessa announced the arrival of their third baby girl, Bailey Faith Berryessa, weighing in at 9lb 1oz. Both mom and baby are doing wonderful. Welcome Bailey!

**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

**aug 8**

*Cedar Mill Bible Church Luncheon*  
Cedar Mill has been a faithful church supporter since 1996 and is hosting their annual “Picnic around the pool”

**tuesday nights  
july - august**

*Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*  
Our summer program is open to all. Please call or email for more information. 7-9 PM.

**aug 9**

*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.

**Speakers, counseling youth support and personal support:** can be arranged through the office.

Check website for additional updates at [www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com)