



**PORTLAND**  
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update february 2013

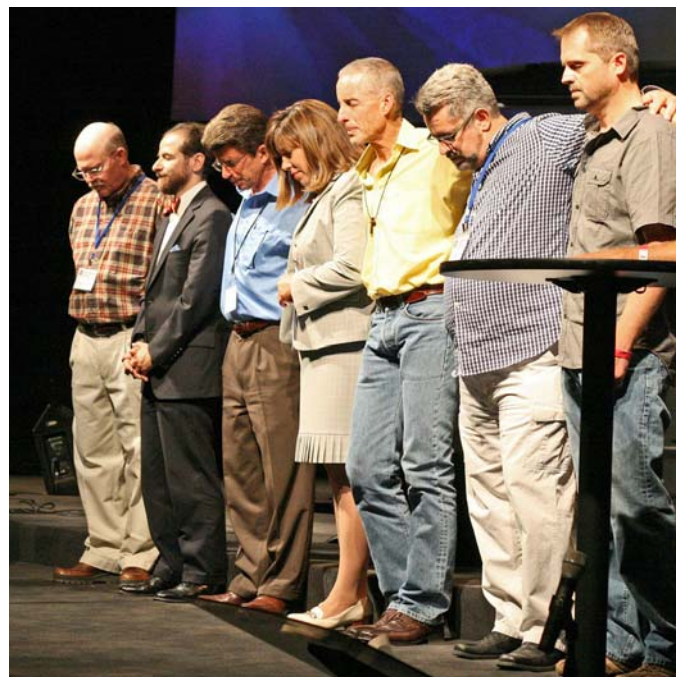
In August of last year, I shared with you an important letter regarding the need for Portland Fellowship to sever its relationship with Exodus International. The significant shift in Exodus' message no longer aligned itself with the purpose and work of Portland Fellowship and we believed that our association with them became an unnecessary liability. If you missed it or would like to read a more detailed letter about what led to our decision, please visit our website and read the August, 2012 update.

The separation from Exodus was difficult, as our relationship had been a place to find mutual support from other ministry leaders doing similar work. With all the pressures of the world (and even some misguided churches), it had been refreshing to connect with others for both encouragement and to share burdens we mutually experienced. Exodus also served as an important and effective umbrella network which directed people on a national level to local ministry. They also provided relevant resources concerning homosexuality. Even though Portland Fellowship is a well established ministry, the desire to be a part of a network for ongoing referral and relational connection remained important to us.

In March of 2012, several former Exodus leaders began uniting together to build a new network, one that would seek to uphold the original intent of Exodus. The first official gathering for the 'Restored Hope Network' was in September, 2012, in Sacramento, CA. During the leadership portion of the conference, a board of directors was established. I was one of seven elected to help form this new network. This was both an honor and, to be honest, a moment of caution for me. Although I knew most of the leaders, I wasn't entirely sure of the heart of this new network, and I did not want to blindly enter into a group of disgruntled leaders, with a confused agenda and an axe to grind. My hope was to see a network form that would uphold Biblical orthodoxy, develop a genuine care for the member ministries, and stay focused on the amazing transformational message of Jesus Christ.

Over the following months, any concerns I had began to dissipate. It became evident that others held to the same convictions and hopes for this new network. The Restored Hope Network Board met during the first week of January, on the Oregon Coast, to pray and plan for the upcoming year. As we plastered papers, with ideas and assignments, all over the cabin walls, consistent trends emerged: we believe in the power of Christ to transform lives, and we exist to serve the network, not ourselves.

Many have asked if Portland Fellowship is an official member of the Restored Hope Network. I'm pleased to share that the Board of Portland Fellowship voted unanimously, in January, to become a



Board of Directors  
for the Restored  
Hope Network

"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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member of the Restored Hope Network. I look forward to seeing this network grow and find deeper connection with one another. There is much to do and the workers are few, but we rely on the grace and favor of God as we move forward.

As Portland Fellowship continues its various ministries, we are excited to share that we are full steam ahead for 2013. Each participant that completed the first section of Taking Back Ground has returned to continue their journey; our Upper Room residents are working through some very difficult issues, yet are doing so as they faithfully press into the Lord; our Family and Friends Hope Group continues to be a wonderful source of encouragement to those with loved ones who have embraced the homosexual identity; and our online programs continue to grow with new participants each week.

We are so grateful for all those who support Portland Fellowship through monthly and special giving; you make a difference in the lives of many. Every gift, big or small, is important to carry on and advance the ministry work.

In His Service,



Jason Thompson  
Executive Director

## Restored Hope Network Mission Statement

**Restored Hope is a membership governed network dedicated to restoring hope to those broken by sexual and relational sin, especially those impacted by homosexuality. We proclaim that Jesus Christ has life-changing power for all who submit to Christ as Lord; we also seek to equip His church to impart that transformation.**

### taking back ground retreat - march 8-10

We are excited to announce our annual Taking Back Ground Retreat. This year, the retreat will be held March 8th through 10th.

Participants of the TBG discipleship series will spend a powerful weekend together in prayer, worship, surrender, and communion. The Lord always meets us there and does a deeper work of healing. May God be glorified as our hearts are deeply impacted.

We not only invite all participants, but we open our time up to alum (as space is available). If you have been through the program, we hope you will consider joining us at Breakaway Lodge, in Gearhart, Oregon. The cost of the retreat is 115.00, which will include all meals on Saturday and Sunday, as well as lodging. The Retreat lodge also sits just minutes from the beach of the North Coast. Please mark your calendars and join us as we spend time together in authentic community.

You can sign up for the retreat online by logging into your account via our website at [www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com), or please give us a call: 503.235.6364.

**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 february

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

#### february 8

*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.

#### february 10

*Calvary Chapel SE Portland*  
Jason will be sharing about Portland Fellowship in both Sunday morning services.

#### march 8-10

*Taking Back Ground Retreat*  
Alum and current participants will be gathering together for a powerful time together.

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