



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update october 2013

We are all familiar with the anecdote of the 'frog in the pot'. The premise is that if a frog is dropped in boiling water it will jump out, because it instantly detects pain and instinctually knows it is in danger. But if the frog is placed in lukewarm water that is slowly heated, it will not perceive the danger and will be cooked to death. The story is often used as a metaphor for negative changes slowly happening around us that eventually leads to our demise.

In keeping with this metaphor, there are those who are in the pot, and those who are not. Certainly there are many who are living according to the world's standards and do not know or care about the ways of God. They are seemingly comfortable in a world that continues to become morally and spiritually bankrupt. To me personally, that reality is not as much shocking, as it is sad. If they do not acknowledge or obey the Lord, what is to be expected of them, but ever increasing depravity?

But there are those who claim to know God, yet because they have become friends with the world or they have lent their ears to false teachers, they have positioned themselves confidently in the pot of deception. Much like the false prophets we read about in the Old Testament, these men and women claim that all is good, all is fine, and there is nothing to be concerned about. Jeremiah wrote, *"This is what the Lord Almighty says: Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The Lord says: You will have peace.' And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.'"* Jer 23:16-18.

I'm concerned for those who are listening to distorted messages from pulpits around the world. The Apostle Paul even warned us about this when he wrote to young Timothy, *"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear."* Tim. 4:3.

For some, it is the culture, through media or fine-sounding arguments that persuade us to compromise the truth. Paul, in an epistle to the Colossians, warned, *"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ."* Col. 2:8.

The Enemy, through the world system, has become more brazen in the plan to confuse and dismiss the truth of God. It is all around us and picking up speed. Recently, when I was driving home from the office and scanning the radio, I heard, *"When I was in the third grade I thought that I was gay."* Well, that caught my attention! Glancing down and realizing that I was on a secular station, I let out a little, "Oh no, here we go."

The rap song is called "Same Love", and the message is that we must progress toward full inclusion of the gay and lesbian person, challenge our belief in Scripture, and deny any hope for change. In one of the verses the rap questions, *"Ask yourself, what kind of person do you wanna be? And how many commandments are gonna rule the way you think? Well rules are rules, the Bible's pretty clear here, Yeah, we know, we get it, but we don't live by procedure, we decide what's right by what's right, not what's written. We evolve past our outdated norms and dispositions; we don't exclude people based on the footnotes of Exodus."* And then the chorus plays in catchy repetition, *"I can't change, even if I tried, even if I wanted to."*

I HAVE TOLD YOU THESE THINGS,
SO THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE.
IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE.
BUT TAKE HEART...

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD!
JOHN 16:33



"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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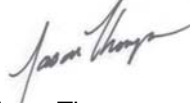
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Although the onslaught of these messages is daunting, we as a staff have received many words of encouragement from you, to press on and remain faithful. We are grateful for them as the battle gets more intense. We are not only grateful for your encouragement; we are blessed to be surrounded by men and women who fix their eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. In the midst of great pressure, they choose to abide and trust in Him. They do not compromise their convictions, yet still demonstrate love and grace for the lost and confused. This is evident in the lives of our young interns and program participants pressing into a deeper walk with God; our Family and Friends' 'Hope Group' participants who continue to seek the Lord for their strength; and the alumni who desire to grow deeper with one another.

If you are growing discouraged, my hope is to pass on a bit of our encouragement back to you. Let us not forget that we will have trouble in this world, but that our Lord Jesus has overcome the world! Stay close and abide in Him. Hold to His Word and trust in Him. It is then that we will experience the fullness of the Lord's blessing and hope.

I know that most of you reading these updates already agree with me on these concerns, so my hope and prayer is that you will pass on this information to others. Many believers still do not know about what God is doing for those relationally and sexually broken. So consider sharing one of our newsletters with your church body, your pastor, and your friends or go online to the Portland Fellowship's Facebook page and 'share' on your page (facebook.com/portlandfellowship). Let them know about the redemptive work of Christ and that He is changing lives. Please pray for us and for all those who are walking in obedience to the Lord, that we stay alert and keep our eyes fixed on Christ in this ever changing world. Thank you for your prayers, your support, and standing firmly with us in Christ.

In His service,



Jason Thompson
Executive Director

Welcoming our 2013-2014 Upper Room Interns

We are pleased to share with you that our intern program has started out strong. We have five men and one woman going through this intense discipleship series. Each week they will participate in community activity, group study, personal mentoring, and private counseling.

Please keep Patrick, Graham, Cole, Joe, Jared, and Julie in your prayers this coming year.



Affordable counseling available



Each year, the Portland Fellowship has the privilege of serving as a counseling site for Multnomah Biblical Seminary's counseling program. This year, Michelle Moore joins us and brings a wealth of experience and insight to our team. Michelle offers counseling to the Upper Room Interns and participants in the Taking Back Ground program and the Hope Group. Michelle is also open and available to meet with those who are unable to join our onsite programs.

If you are seeking affordable counseling, please call Cynthia at 503.235.6364 to set up an appointment.

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events calendar

oct 24

Multnomah University
Jason Thompson will be speaking to a Human Sexuality class.

tuesday nights

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

oct 11

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