



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update april 2014

Once again, I find myself at the annual *Taking Back Ground* retreat, looking around and wondering, “What are you up to, Lord?” Standing on the beach, I realized that seventeen years ago I was at the very first ministry retreat. I closed my eyes and remembered what it was like. I was so terrified, I actually felt sick to my stomach. At that year’s surrender service, I thought to myself, “I’m so not participating in this,” but as the Lord prompted, I did. Although that weekend began with much torment in my mind, it ended with my life truly changed and I have never been the same. Seventeen years later, I still see fruit from all that the Lord did at the retreat.

As the years went on, I experienced new opportunities at PF. I went from a deeply broken participant, to small group leader and teacher in the program. Now, I even have the privilege of serving as Board Chair for PF. In all, I still consider the retreat as one of the most profound of all my experiences. Each time I go, I’m reminded by the Lord, that in so many ways, I am still a participant, receiving all He has for me. Even though it is years later, God, without fail, shows up and loves on the participants and on me.

He shows up in amazing ways. Sometimes it starts with the car ride to the location, or during breakfast in a conversation, or at lunch when someone sits beside you and speaks words of encouragement and truth. He shows up during activity time when you are encouraged to create a symbol for the surrender service, or during the walk on the beach alone when He reveals His heart for you and you are undone. He is there during devotion time and during worship. I know He is present during the surrender service and all of Heaven shouts as each surrender is made. He is evident in the lives that come and especially evident in the lives that go home changed... forever.

I love the retreat and surrender service, but even more, I love more the testimonies that are given Sunday morning and in the days after the retreat. Here is an excerpt of one man’s experience—

“I met with the director, Jason Thompson, for a one-on-one at the retreat. It was a God-thing. I told him how I was reluctant to face God again and try to start over one more time and make promises that I’ve always broken in the past. Jason reminded me that if my son came to me with a good and humble request, I would not shake my head and say, ‘No, I’ve given you too many chances.’ I would receive him and gladly encourage him and believe in him. ‘So,’ Jason said, ‘it is with God.’ Simple gospel I needed to hear and believe. I did and do believe. When I was talking with Jason I expressed my honest reluctance to promise God again, to try again and to commit again. Jason shared that at the surrender service that’s not what we’re doing. He took out his phone and handed it to me and said, ‘If I surrender my phone to you, it is no longer mine, but yours. Not only is it no longer mine, I don’t have to worry about it, manage it, or deal with it, or pay the bill.’ The light went on—I surrendered my addictive behavior; I gave it away.”



“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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So at the surrender service I told it all; I talked about how afraid I was and I surrendered. And more friends that I thought I had come up to pray for me. Something happened in me, I am sure of that. I had no strong outward emotions but my stomach was in knots. Later that night when I went to my personal porn library in my head, the Lord gently reminded me, 'No, this is not yours anymore.' So I didn't go there.

I'm not bubbly joyful. I feel like I just came home from the battlefield. But I am peaceful, relieved and hopeful. Now I can get on with the next battle God has for me."



This story is amazing and deeply encouraging. It is only one testimony of many incredible things the Lord did in the lives of those who were there. I cannot wait to hear from the others, what God did at the retreat for them and the freedom it has produced. Thank you for praying for the retreat or for anyone who attended. Your prayers were a great investment into the Kingdom which is already bearing fruit. I am never the same after the retreat. Never.

In Christ,

Kathy Grace Duncan
Portland Fellowship Board Chair

SAVE THE DATE

Restored Hope Network

3rd Annual Hope Conference
June 27-28, 2014
Portland, Oregon

Featuring:
Dr. Larry Crabb

Other Special Guests:
Dr. Joseph Nicolosi
Drs. Earl and Sandy Wilson

For more information:
www.restoredhopenetwork.org

Restored Hope Network is excited to announce the keynote speaker for their **June 27th & 28th, 2014** annual conference in Portland, Oregon. As special keynote, Dr. Larry Crabb will be speaking on Saturday, June 28th. Dr. Crabb is a well-known psychologist, conference and seminar speaker, Bible teacher, popular author, and founder/director of NewWay Ministries.

Registration opens April 1, 2014 www.restoredhopenetwork.org

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events calendar

tuesday nights

Taking Back Ground
A discipleship series for men and women struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions.

april 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.

april 9 and 16

Jason and Interns speaking
Church youth group
Longview, WA

april 22

Solid Rock Forum
Jason will be sharing about
Portland Fellowship at this
leadership forum

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

Check website for additional updates
at www.portlandfellowship.com