



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update october 2014

Recently I had the privilege of being a guest on the Georgene Rice show on 93.9 KPDQ. Georgene and her husband Dan have been huge supporters of Portland Fellowship, both personally and professionally for close to two decades, as well as a great encouragement to me personally. As always, my time on her show was enjoyable and fruitful. In part of our conversation, Georgene asked me to share my observation of the church's response to the issue of homosexuality. My answer was mixed.

As we know, there are churches who have embraced the liberal mindset that homosexuality is a part of God's diverse plan for love and relationships. These churches would celebrate homosexual congregates and bless their unions. Sadly, the way this is permitted is to either dismiss Scripture that addresses God's intention for human sexuality or to revise and interpret Scripture in a way that resolves internal conflict between one's sexuality and faith.

Another response from the church, regarding homosexuality, is a position that holds to a theologically conservative position, yet lacks the powerful message that God has the power to redeem and change lives. A few months ago I listened to a podcast of a highly respected pastor in our community that did a fantastic job of addressing homosexuality from a compassionate and biblically accurate position. The one thing that lacked was the message of healing and transformation. At the end of his sermon I wondered why his message hadn't included a message of hope for wholeness or a new found freedom that is offered by Jesus our Lord.



As I've written before, Christians generally believe that God can and does transform lives, yet some of those same Christians may struggle with believing that God transforms the heart and mind of someone struggling with homosexuality, as though that was too surmountable to heal. But the truth is, God can and does change our desires and affections, our longings and passions, as we surrender it all to Him. In His mercy, He makes all things new!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Cor. 5:17

“...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.” Col 3:10

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me” Gal 2:20
...and, one of my personal favorites, “That is what some of you were! But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus the Messiah and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Cor. 6:11

Although there are churches that may, for now, miss the redemptive message or worse, miss the biblical message all together, I find great joy and encouragement in the many churches that hold strong to the truth of God regarding biblical sexuality, His compassion for those lost in deception, and His healing power for those who seek Him.

“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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Although there are many churches who stand alongside us with us with prayer and blessings, some have also chosen to financially support the ministry. I want to publically thank them and pray God's blessing over each of them.

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church - Thank you, Pastor Pete, for the countless ways you love us.

Calvary Chapel SE Portland - Thank you, Doug Snow and Kevin Smith, for your support and personal friendship.

Cedar Mill Bible Church - Thank you for your long time faithfulness to Portland Fellowship.

First Baptist Church of Gladstone - Thank you, Pastor Brian Early, for your faithful support.

First Church of God Vancouver - Thanks, to the entire ministry staff for your love and support.

Harvest Community Church - Thank you, Pastor Matt Guerino, and all at Harvest.

Hinson Church - Thank you, Pastors Michael Lawrence and Geoff Chang. You are a gift to us in so many ways.

Mt. Adams Baptist Church - You are so far away, yet continue to faithfully support our work. Thank you!

Prince of Peace - It is a joy to have you worship each Sunday in the Fellowship House. Thank you for your support.

Rolling Hills Community Church - Thank you for your many years of love and support.

Solid Rock: A Jesus Church - Thank you, John Mark Comer and Todd Newell, for your friendship and support.

The Well Community Church - Thank you, CJ Coffee, Eric Davis and all who serve at The Well. We are so grateful.

Serving Him,



Jason Thompson
Executive Director

program announcements

Our fall programs are beginning this month. As you may have noticed we are offering *Living Waters*, this year, as our primary support program for new participants. We are excited to have Morgan Davis and several of our interns leading this powerful program. This program begins Monday, October 6. During the coming year, we will be revising the *Taking Back Ground* workbooks and, Lord willing, re-launching the *Taking Back Ground* next fall.

Solid Ground, a new group for alumni of the *Taking Back Ground* program is beginning Tuesday, October 7. If you have completed our programs, anytime in the course of 30 years, please consider coming for support and encouragement. Call 503.235.6364 or go online for more information - www.portlandfellowship.com



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

monday evenings

Living Waters

For those seeking to resolve sexual and relational wounds 7 p.m.

tuesday evenings

Solid Ground

For men and women who have completed the Taking Back Ground program and desire continued encouragement and support 7 p.m.

wednesday evenings

Upper Room Interns weekly discipleship gathering.

oct 10

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