



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update february 2016

We are so excited to share this month's update with you! We hope that our newsletter is a source of encouragement for you. With all the bad news that circulates these days, it is always refreshing for us to share stories of hope and redemption with all of you. We defeat the devil by the blood of Jesus AND *"the word of our testimony"* (Rev. 12:11). We like to think that every time our testimonials roll out, the devil gets another kick in the pants. There is certainly so much Good News in His Kingdom, and we like reminding folks of that!

Speaking of Good News, we are a quarter of the way through our 2015-16 programs, and we are absolutely in awe at all of the good things the Lord is doing in this ministry. This year in Taking Back Ground we have integrated a new element into our program. Along with video teachings, workbook material and small groups, we have also now included facilitated group discussions! During these times together, we share with one another what we've processed in our workbooks, we dig deeper and we ask each other reflective questions. As everyone takes ownership of their individual process, each person is held accountable to working through the program, and participants glean from one another what the Lord is doing in their respective lives. This new format has really been a huge blessing. Our goal is not only to put as many tools as possible into the hands of our participants, but also to empower them to utilize those resources. James 5:19-20 says, *"...if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."* How exciting is that! We know that if even one person is brought back to the truth through our programs, we will have helped them find life, forgiveness and freedom from sinful identity and behaviors. Please pray as well for our Wives' Group participants who also meet together on Tuesday nights. Through our faithful leaders and a new curriculum called "Betrayal & Beyond," the Lord is doing a special work in each of the wives, even as they support their husbands' healing journeys.

We could not successfully run our TBG program without the commitment and support of our faithful volunteer leaders, and this year we are privileged to have an extremely seasoned and experience leadership team. Our leaders Cole, Cody, Patrick, Kim, Evan, Amy, Cynthia and Brian have a combined total of 49 years involvement with Taking Back Ground, while seasoned leaders Eddie, Ron & Heidi, Kathy Grace and Jason have respectively 13, 17, 17, 20 and 25 years of experience with TBG. Praise God for the faithfulness, experience and effectiveness this team brings to Taking Back Ground this year! Consistent, competent leaders are some of the most crucial people in a participant's discipleship journey at Portland Fellowship, and we are extremely grateful for how the Lord has brought together this year's leadership team.

For our Hope Group program, we have many exciting changes coming to help better support the families of those who are gay-identified. We have an increasing number of parents who are coming to us for support or advice, and we want to be able to minister to them to the best of our ability. It's a new season of examining what needs there are at Hope Group and how



Jason leading the Taking
Back Ground group
discussion time.

"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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we can adapt to meet those needs. To that end, we have recently implemented a Hope Group Planning Team that is helping guide the direction of the ministry. This team will be available to encourage and support other parents as needs arise, which we are very excited about. As 2 Corinthians 1:4 says, the Lord “... comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” Our desire is to see parents and families equipped and mobilized to pass on to other struggling families the same comfort and encouragement they’ve received from the Lord. We also want to provide more support outside of our monthly meeting at PF, which is where our Home Groups come in. We currently have Home Groups in Tigard, Oregon City and Vancouver, where friends and family gather in host homes to encourage one another and pray for their loved ones. Would you pray with us for our planning team to be equipped with wisdom as they so generously seek to volunteer their time and minister to our families in need? The Lord has been so faithful to raise up more leaders in this ministry, and we are anticipating even greater things in 2016!

Rigel, Trevor, Joe, Liz and Melissa have now built a solid Upper Room Community. We are learning a lot about one another in our meetings, and growing in the knowledge of God and each other. Each participant brings so much to the Upper Room Community with their unique and special gifts—God has certainly ordained for each one of them to be in this program. The next four months will be intense but fast-paced, and we pray that these participants grasp all that God has for them during this next phase of the program. Please pray for them to continue onward, fully engaged, and that nothing would distract or deter them from what God has for them in the Upper Room Community.

Finally, we praise God for you, our faithful pastors, churches, supporters, prayer warriors and friends. In this ministry, we sometimes face days of discouragement, sorrow, frustration or disappointment, and often it is an encouraging email, phone call or letter from one of you that the Lord uses to pick us back up and remind us of why we do what we do. Your faithful and generous financial support is also a tangible reminder that God is a God who provides, and that *He* is the one who wants this ministry to continue. We know for a fact that we continue to minister to the sexually broken only by His grace. Thank you for being our earthly expression of the Lord’s “*very present help in time of trouble*” (Psalm 46:1). We pray God continues to bless you and your families as we seek Him together.

In Christ,

The PF Staff

Jason, Cynthia & Patrick

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for Jason and Kathy Grace as they partner with Denise Schick (*Help 4 Families*) to record and produce a new online video teaching series on transgender issues. Pray that the Lord would give them safe travels, protect them in their walks with the Lord and give them strength and courage to lovingly speak the truth into a difficult topic.
- Our Taking Back Ground retreat will take place this March. For many of the TBG participants, this will be their first TBG retreat experience. Ask the Lord to prepare their hearts to fully surrender everything to Him. Pray as well that the Holy Spirit unite us and that Christ would be our central focus that weekend.
- Pray for the Lord’s protection over the PF staff and leaders, and for wisdom and discernment in responding to people who are hostile to the Lord’s work here at PF.

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

tuesdays in february Taking Back Ground Wives Group

Discipleship programs for men and women struggling with SSA; wives of husbands who struggle.

7-9:30 pm at the PF house.

thursdays in february Upper Room Community

Intensive discipleship program.

february 12 Hope Group

For Family and Friends. Dinner will be provided.

6:30 pm at the PF house.

**february 26
Hope Home Groups**
Opportunities to connect with other family members for prayer and support. Call office for info.

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

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com