

Dear Friends,

update october 2016



More than three and a half years ago, Jason Thompson and I (Denise Shick) first discussed the idea of making video lessons for families of loved ones who identify as transgender. Early in those discussions, it was as if some of the dreams and goals were on their way to being accomplished. But then life happened, and before we knew it, years had passed. Both of us had many responsibilities and ministry work that kept us from accomplishing the goal we first discussed. But God had the perfect timing for us—we simply were not aware of that timing.

Scripture pronounces God's omniscience: He knows everything; He knows what will happen before it happens; He has foreknowledge. But, beyond God's foreknowledge, the Bible also refers to God's sovereign control of events—He makes things happen. The Bible also records God using prophets to announce future events. However, He does not always share what He is up to, or how events will be accomplished.

In short phone calls and brief meetings at the Restored Hope Network conference, Jason and I continued talking about our mutual goal, but could never find the right time to begin. Finally, last fall, God called to our hearts that it was time to rehash our plan and move forward. Jeremiah 29:11 says God has *"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Oh, how good our God is! No matter what you are going through, God has good planned for you, just as He had with the videos He prompted us to record.

God is more than capable of redeeming the bleakest-appearing circumstances. That is what He has done through this new resource. Many lives have been and will be redeemed as God formed His team to develop this resource, which is meant to bring comfort and love to folks going through heart-wrenching journeys with their gender-confused loved ones.

God knew ahead of time who the team members would be for this very important project. As we sought out, prayed, and talked with each member of the team, we saw evidence of God working behind the scenes. Each team member believed deeply in this project, and in the fruit that would come from the hard work ahead for each of us. Then, there it was. We saw a vision, three years in the making, come to life.

This past July, the team members met near Lexington, Kentucky, to start the filming process. As Tiffany was filmed first, the rest of us sat nearby, in awe of a mother's heart for her wayward child. Despite her pain, she has faith that God is walking this journey with her! The following video recordings were equally touching. As we watched these recordings, many of us thought of the ancient patriarch Joseph, who forgave and embraced those he cared for so deeply—those who had hurt him. Several of our guests understand the loss that families endure, as their loss is similar.



Hope Group Online:
Transgender is PF's newest
online resource.

"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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As you sign up for this newly-completed series, you will hear personal stories from folks who struggled with their God-given gender. For instance, one man shares from the bottom of his heart about how his friend struggled, where some of those underlying issues came from and how it was a trying time for him as a friend. Darrell and Sandy share about the time they heard their son announce, “I’m transgender.” No amount of time can erase that memory for either parent. They share their heartbreak during their painful journey, but they also speak of their certainty that God was right there with them the whole time.



www.hopegrouponline.com

You will also be encouraged to hear how God walked beside Kathy Grace as she moved through her struggles and toward her own story of redemption. God came alongside His daughter and brought her to a place where she now knows she is safe within His arms. In God’s perfect timing, He brought this team together, as each member saw His will and desire to see this project come to life—for you, a friend or perhaps your neighbor. The project began with God giving direction and ended with Him wanting to bless each person who needs it. Through our patience, and not rushing it—and through God’s sovereign direction—we accomplished this in His perfect timing!

God causes things to happen at exactly the right time. It’s not our job to figure out when, but to make up our mind that we won’t give up until we cross the finish line and are living in God’s outrageous blessings! The more we trust Jesus and keep our eyes focused on Him, the more abundant life we’ll have. Trusting God brings life. Believing brings rest. So stop trying to figure everything out, and let God be God in your life. Our God is faithful to finish the good work He first began!

-Denise Shick
Director, Help 4 Families

PF Basement: Sewer Repair + Carpet Replacement

This August, the PF house had a plumbing emergency when the main sewer line into the house backed up and flooded part of the basement. After several visits from different plumbers, we’ve begun replacing the entire pipe that connects from the main city line into the PF house. This unexpected project entails ripping out the carpet, digging up the cement and putting in a new pipe before covering everything back up and replacing the carpet.

While this is an unplanned major expense for our ministry, we know that God will provide the funds needed to keep this house dry, safe and functional. Please pray the work would get done quickly and efficiently!



Taking Back Ground 2016-2017

We are currently accepting applications and completing new intake meetings for this year’s Taking Back Ground discipleship program. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining or learning more, please call or email us today! The program meets Tuesdays, from 7-9:30 pm, and runs October through May.

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 october Taking Back Ground

Discipleship programs for men and women struggling with SSA.

Support group for wives.

7-9:30 pm at the PF house.

october 14

Hope Group

For Family and Friends.

Dinner will be provided.

6:30 pm at the PF house.

october 15

Jason Speaking

Clackamas churches seminar.

october 15

Patrick & Kathy Grace Sharing

Western Seminary conference.

october 16

Cynthia Sharing

Tri-City Baptist Church.

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

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com