



PORTLAND  
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update october 2018

I hope this letter finds you resting in the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a high calling to find peace in a culture that challenges us at every angle. No matter what our background is, we are forced to grapple with something in our environment or in our relationships that challenges our security, our identity and what we really believe.

I've had my own share of challenges to contend with. I am a child of the 60's, raised in a typical dysfunctional home, found salvation at the age of twelve, attended a Christian university, married then raised four daughters, homeschooled for twenty-two years, semi-conservative...divorced. From my own abbreviated story, you can already see that I have had my own issues to grapple with. What do I do with my childhood baggage? What does God think of divorce? Where do I find my value and my identity?

In addition to these questions, our culture challenges us even further—Why marry? Why hold onto our values or convictions? Wouldn't it be easier to just live for today and enjoy pleasure? I have to say this because I feel very strongly about it: I think it can be better than that. I think that often what the world calls "pleasure" is really satan whispering, "Just take a bite." I think when we are challenged, it forces us to really face what we believe in our core—whether we are going through a divorce, facing unemployment, broken relationships, sexual identity issues, overwhelming loss or cultural pressures to conform—each of us is forced to respond in some way, either proactively or passively. Will we choose to believe what God's Word says about His love for us, and our identity being found in Him, or will we listen to other whisperings? I believe that if our feet are not firmly planted in the Truth of God's Word, we will be easily swayed.

I have seen how Portland Fellowship holds fast to Scripture, with so much integrity, even in the midst of a very challenging secular culture and a "sometimes confused" church culture. My personal connection with PF initially came through friendship with Jason and Amy Thompson. However, my love for the mission of PF has come through witnessing how boldly and unapologetically the Truth is proclaimed. Several years ago, I began doing some proofreading and editing for their newsletters. As a self-proclaimed "grammar geek", I thought it was fun to help with spelling corrections, etc. But, what ended up happening surprised me. Time after time, I would find myself being moved to tears as I read the testimonies contained in The Fellowship Message. These were stories of men and women's lives being transformed by God through discipleship at PF. Their stories deeply touched my heart. I have always loved reading biographies, especially to learn how people grapple with life's challenges. How do they survive? What helps them to overcome? It was in these newsletter stories that I saw one constant theme—a grappling of where people would choose to find their identity, and a turning to the Lord to follow and cling to Him.



*Renee is a PF  
Board Member  
and the editor of  
The Fellowship  
Message.*

"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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A year ago, I joined the board at PF, feeling very much like a fish out of water. I wondered how I could possibly contribute to something I could not personally relate to as a middle-aged woman who has never experienced same-sex attraction. How could I contribute when I have not had the same struggle? Yet, as I prayed about it, I sensed the Lord speaking to me and helping me to see how similar we all are. Some of His children struggle with SSA, some of us struggle with our identities in other ways, but we all have at the root something that is broken. I realized that I could identify with those at PF because, at the core, we all have the same need for Jesus to save us and bring healing to our brokenness.

I continue to do proofreading for Portland Fellowship and never tire of reading the personal stories. You simply can't make them up—the ways that the Lord works to bring His healing touch and abundant love to those who seek after Him is truly breathtaking. I see the Lord at work here at PF and count it a privilege to come alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ, as we all look to the One who promises us His deep and abiding peace. I also consider it an honor to partner with all of you who, like me, may not experience SSA nor have a gay or trans-identified loved one, yet you continue to lift up this ministry through prayer and generous gifts. Thank you for heeding the Lord's call and continuing to support Jesus' healing of people's brokenness here at Portland Fellowship.

In Christ,

Renee Naslund  
PF Board Member  
Fellowship Message Editor

### ***Praise Report: California Bill AB-2943 Withdrawn***



For several months now, we have been writing and asking for your partnership in prayer for the Californian bill AB-2943. This bill was introduced into the California legislature with the purpose of outlawing the sale of goods and services considered to be “conversion therapy”. Hundreds of concerned individuals, pastors, churches and ministries have expressed their concern—after all, if the Bible speaks of people struggling with homosexuality being transformed by the power of Christ, wouldn't this bill make it illegal to teach on such passages (even if they're not practicing conversion therapy)?

Thankfully, after meeting with numerous churches and pastors, the author of CA bill AB-2943 withdrew his proposal a few weeks ago. Thank you for your prayers! While this is a relief for redemptive ministries in California, we ask for your continued support and intercession for ministries like Portland Fellowship here in Oregon and around the country.

**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**

Group for those struggling  
with unwanted SSA.  
Also group for wives.  
7-9:30 p.m.

#### **october 12 Hope Group**

For Family and Friends.  
Dinner will be provided.  
6:30 p.m. at the PF house.

**october 26-27  
Apologetics Conference**  
Leaders Kathy Grace, Ron &  
Heidi will be representing PF at an  
apologetics conference at  
Southwest Hills Baptist Church.

**thursdays in october  
Upper Room Community**  
PF's live-in discipleship program.  
12:30-3:30 p.m.

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

Check website for additional updates  
at [www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com)