



P
ORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update june 2019

As this year's Taking Back Ground program has come to a close, it has been my pleasure to reflect on all that God has done and continues to do in lives here at Portland Fellowship, particularly in the wives group. Heidi and I have the joy of celebrating the wives who've completed the TBG program with their husbands, as we've walked alongside these women for the last two years. God has done some amazingly beautiful things in our time together:

We have watched as broken hearts and decimation of trust from infidelity have, by the gentle hand of the Lord, slowly over time, turned into marriages that are growing and renewed.

We have cried tears together as we delved into the roots of homosexuality, and mourned the knowledge of the painful past that led each of us here with our husbands.

We have worked through how to recognize unhealthy relational patterns, codependency, defensiveness and detachment.

We have prayerfully examined identity, and what that means when we are children of the King, not measured by the standards of the world, but by our Father.

We have had difficult but wonderful conversations about what healthy boundaries look like, and how to handle failure.

Lastly, we have worked through the TBG program, not as a diagnostic tool to inspect our spouses with, but much more as one with which we examine ourselves. One of the surprising things to many wives when they first come to PF is how applicable the material is to them personally. As wives, we walk through the door because of our husbands' struggle, not our own. We often come ready to help "fix" their sins, and are ready to hold the light that will illuminate their issues. However, we have all learned that while our struggles and temptations can look very different, our pain is often the same. The same feelings of rejection that planted the seeds of hurt in our loved one's hearts have been planted in our own. They may grow into different kinds of weeds that ensnare us, but weeds all the same. Looking back at the two years spent learning together, the pruning that God has done is already bearing fruit in each of our lives, and it is glorious to behold.

Our lovely ladies walked away from graduation this spring stronger than when they came. We saw God answer prayers for boldness, friendship, finances, support and endless matters of the heart. Most of all, we watched as these wives grew all the more in their reliance on God to see them through. No matter what storm might lie around the bend, they are secure in who God is and His endless love for them.



"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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During this last section of TBG, we were blessed to be joined by three new wives who will be starting the program in the fall, two alongside their spouses. It was a precious reminder to all of us of that the work God has done will continue on, and it was wonderful to connect the new wives with the graduating ones as we prepared to break for the summer. These women left knowing that anytime they need prayer for this issue, the rest of us are just a text away.

In addition to our weekly gatherings with the wives at TBG, we have continued to develop the Hope Group Online Wives video series, which included two writing weekend retreats since January. On our first retreat, we were able to somewhat consolidate the abundant list of things we thought every wife walking this road should know. Between Heidi and I, we have years of thoughts and experiences, and it took effort for us to boil things down to what we felt was necessary. On our second weekend retreat, we were thrilled to be joined by Karen Sherwood, a former wives group leader and board member, as well as our ready-to-graduate participants. We were so grateful for their commitment to help. As it often goes in the creative process, we spent plenty of time with our erasers in hand, thankful for the input from others who hadn't already worked on it for hours! With their fresh perspectives, we now have a solid outline on which to build the new HGO Wives video series.

We covet your continued prayers as we finish writing the scripts for these online videos, and work toward filming in the coming months. It is our hearts' desire that this will provide education, comfort and connection for wives and fiancées who are seeking support beyond the Portland metro area. Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement and generous partnership with PF to make programs like the wives group possible—we are deeply grateful.

In Christ,

Amy A.
Wives Group Leader

Summer Support Groups

On Tuesday evenings in July & August, we are offering Summer Support Groups to current and incoming Taking Back Ground participants. Groups will run from 7-8:30pm. You can register on the PF website, and new participants must complete an intake.



Last Call: RHN HOPE 2019 Conference



This year's Restored Hope Network conference, HOPE 2019, will take place June 21-22 in Minneapolis, MN. Keynote speakers include June Hunt, Alex McFarland, Juli Slattery and Phil Courson. There will also be breakout sessions, worship and fellowship. To register, visit www.restoredhopenetwork.org.

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events calendar

june
TBG Leader Celebration
PF staff honor the
TBG volunteer leaders.

june 14
Hope Group
For Family and friends
of gay or trans-identified
loved ones. Dinner
will be provided.
6:30 pm at the PF house.

june 21-22
RHN HOPE 2019 Conference
Annual conference for
the Restored Hope Network.
PF Women's Ministry Leader,
Kathy Grace, will be sharing
her testimony.

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

Check website for additional updates
at www.portlandfellowship.com