



PORTLAND  
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update april 2021

I was recently looking through old work emails when I stumbled across a message from March, 2020. It was an announcement from Human Resources, instructing staff to begin working from home to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Shortly thereafter, my wife was told to stay home and begin teaching kindergarten virtually, and the childcare for my two young boys shut down. Within a span of a few weeks, our world ground to a halt.

For Portland Fellowship, the global shutdown meant the in-person support groups that have been a staple of PF from the very beginning were no longer feasible. In their place, PF started using Zoom to continue offering Taking Back Ground, the Wives Group, and Hope Group. Thankfully, we serve a God who is faithful regardless of circumstances, and despite the challenges of the last year, He continues to bless the ministry of PF. The online format has allowed Hope Group participants to stay connected and even welcome new speakers from across the country. For TBG, the current socially-distanced hybrid format has allowed the discipleship process to continue and even created an opportunity for people outside the Portland metro area to attend.

God also continues to bless Portland Fellowship through many of you, our supporters. In January, I attended my first PF Board Meeting and was blown away by the people who continue to faithfully pray and sacrificially give towards the ministry, despite the uncertainty and challenges of the last year. As a small organization, Portland Fellowship is dependent on a small group of people who regularly support the ministry, but we are also uniquely blessed to walk alongside the churches and individuals who support us. It is important for you to know that you are not just another number or another giver, but real people who we get to pray for, care for, and consider friends and partners in this work.

For me, this work is personal. When I first came to Portland Fellowship, through the online Reach Truth program in 2010, I was just coming to terms with my unwanted same-sex attraction and in desperate need of hope. At PF, I found the hope I was seeking, grounded in the truth of God's redemptive character. I was, however, not yet willing to completely surrender to the deeper healing the Lord was calling me to, and I never completed the Reach Truth program. What followed was a season of beginning to walk in the light, while part of my life was still shrouded in darkness and sin. It was only after I chose to act out with a man, breaking the trust of the woman I loved, that I came back to PF and enrolled



*Derek is a member  
of the PF Board  
of Directors.*

*"He has sent me to bind  
up the brokenhearted, to  
proclaim liberty to captives,  
and freedom to prisoners."*

ISAIAH 61 : 1

post office box 14841  
portland, oregon 97293  
telephone 503\_235\_6364  
fax 503\_235\_3896  
e-mail [pf@portlandfellowship.com](mailto:pf@portlandfellowship.com)  
[portlandfellowship.com](http://portlandfellowship.com)

in Taking Back Ground. What followed were two years of hard work: two years of revisiting old wounds, of honestly confessing my sin, of open-handedly surrendering the false identities and lies I had believed. Most importantly, it was two years of God showing up and using PF to speak truth into my life. While I am still very much a work in progress, I am forever thankful for PF and all those who have supported the ministry through the years.

As we look toward the future a lot remains unknown, but I am convinced that God still causes all things to work together for His good purpose. Amidst the noise of our world, Portland Fellowship continues to boldly proclaim the counter-cultural truth of Christ's redemption and transformation of those struggling with unwanted SSA and gender confusion. On behalf of the PF Board, staff, volunteer leaders, program participants, and all those seeking hope—thank you for your faithful prayers and support of this important work.

In Christ,

Derek Hines  
PF Board Treasurer

## Help 4 Families Webinar



of God's redeeming work in the lives of those struggling with unwanted SSA.

This event is free, and there will be an opportunity to donate to both ministries. To register, please go to [www.help4families.org/webinars](http://www.help4families.org/webinars).

## HOPE 2021 ONLINE

The Restored Hope Network annual HOPE conference is quickly approaching! HOPE 2021 will be held June 11 & 12, and will feature keynote speakers Andy Comiskey, Dr. Nancy Heche and Alex McFarland. The conference will feature powerful biblical teaching, inspiring life stories and more.

To register, go to [www.RestoredHopeNetwork.org/HopeConf](http://www.RestoredHopeNetwork.org/HopeConf).

**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

**april 9**

### Hope Group

For friends and family of gay or trans-identifying loved ones.  
7-8:30 pm

To RSVP for Hope Group, go to:  
[portlandfellowship.com/rsvp.php](http://portlandfellowship.com/rsvp.php)

**april 17**

### Help 4 Families Webinar

PF Staff will be sharing at the Help 4 Families webinar.  
10 am-12:30 pm

To RSVP: [help4families.org/webinars](http://help4families.org/webinars)

**april 8, 21**

### Jason Speaking

Jason Thompson will be sharing with Mid Valley Fellowship's Eremos interns.

**tuesdays in april**

### Taking Back Ground

Discipleship program for those struggling with unwanted SSA. Group for wives as well.

\*Call the office for Zoom option.  
7-9:30 pm

**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)

