



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update june 2021

There is so much about the process of going through Portland Fellowship's Taking Back Ground program that feels like never-ending waiting: waiting for healing; waiting for change; waiting for things to not hurt anymore; waiting for reconciliation, forgiveness, and for something to feel "normal" again. However, as I have walked through this program and seen others do the same, I am convinced that God's goodness and timing are never what we expect, but they are exactly what we need. He remains faithful during the process, even when it doesn't feel like anything is changing.

"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Psalm 27:13-14.

At the end of May, 2020, we had switched over to meeting via Zoom for our small groups, and I thought for sure we would not be doing that ever again for Portland Fellowship. It went fine, people opened up eventually, but it felt like a lot to ask for participants to be so vulnerable over a computer. Yet, as the year was full of so many surprises, one of the positive ones included that the 2020-2021 TBG program would have a type of hybrid program using Zoom for those outside of the Portland area.

Part of the TBG program involves Year One and Year Two discussing their separate weekly lessons in a large group setting, and I've had the privilege of being part of the Year One discussions over Zoom, with participants from different states (and different countries!). It was a little awkward for everyone at first, but as the year has progressed, the participants' openness and commitment to growth and health have been constant. It has been an unexpected blessing to have TBG available to those outside the Portland area. Every Tuesday, the Zoom leaders all log in from different rooms around the PF ministry house, and we get to meet with people from various time zones and different cultures. At the end of some of these conversations, as participants share their struggles and joys of this process, I wish we were in the same room to reach out and let them know how much they are seen and cared for.

When we got ready to start this year's program last fall, we found out that we would have one woman participant in person, and two or three on Zoom with our small group. I have been continually impressed with how our ladies in small group show up ready to process and do the hard work to get to the root of whatever is holding them back. These women are brave and consistent, sharing their hearts, struggles and victories in person and over the computer. We may never all sit in the same room together, but these small group times have been precious and encouraging.



Janelle is a leader in PF's Taking Back Ground program.

"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
portlandfellowship.com

One of the first evenings I showed up to PF this past year, I remember looking around the room and being heartbroken that the chairs were so far apart for worship. I thought, "How will we even be able to tell if people are singing, with all the masks and social distancing?" I was so glad to be wrong! While leading worship one night, I was surprised with how much I could hear. After months of not being in church with people standing and worshipping together, Tuesday nights have become a refreshment to my heart and something I hadn't realized I missed so much. And while they haven't been able to worship with us in person, it's been a joy to be able to livestream our TBG worship times with our Zoom participants.

Taking Back Ground this year has looked different in so many ways compared to how it's been in previous years, but God isn't surprised by any of it. He knew there would be other people outside of Oregon that needed the support and care that PF offers. He knew the names of the participants that would encourage each other with their stories, with some saying, "I've been there, and the other side is not as far away as you think." God's goodness is still evident in the lives of His children. Whether it be in the same room, or seeing someone's face become less tired and their eyes brighter over Zoom, I have seen the goodness of God and His faithfulness here, on this side of eternity. We wait with hope as God transforms us to be like Him in this community of other believers, in this sacred space that is Portland Fellowship. As always, we ask for your prayers and look forward to sharing more of the work that God is doing.

In Christ,

Janelle
TBG Leader

RHN HOPE 2021: Conference Watch Party

The RHN conference includes powerful biblical teaching, inspiring life stories and more. We are hosting a watch party here at the PF house for those who would like to view with others, 8am-2pm Friday and Saturday June 11-12.



A suggested donation of \$65 will cover the viewing cost, coffee/pastries and lunch both days. We will have two viewing rooms, one mask-optional and one mask-required, and we will be physical distancing, therefore seating is limited. Register soon by signing into your account at www.portlandfellowship.com, or contact us: 503.235.6364 office@portlandfellowship.com.

Visit www.restoredhopenetwork.org/hopeconf for more information, or to register and attend online from your own home.

Save the Dates: PF Summer Series 2021

Mark your calendars! The PF Summer Series will take place on Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm this July and August. More information to follow.

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

June 11-12
RHN HOPE2021 Conference
Restored Hope Network's annual conference, held online.

To register:
restoredhopenetwork.org/hopeconf

**The Hope Group will not be meeting on Zoom this month, as the RHN conference falls on the second Friday of June. We encourage Hope Group participants to attend the RHN conference, either online or in person at the PF watch party.*

June 25
KathyGrace Speaking
KathyGrace will be sharing at Western Seminary's Living Room Lunch.

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

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com