



PORTLAND  
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update june 2022

It's been just over eleven years since I confessed my struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction to a trusted leader. I had been serving on the mission field, but found myself almost having a sexual fall with another man. In that moment, I heard the Lord say to me, "You can either choose life, or you can choose death." I had always wanted a wife and children, which I knew was God's design for sexuality and life, and I also knew that walking down the path of homosexual behavior would only lead to suffering and death. And so, by the grace of God, I chose life, and reached out for help.

I would love to say that everything changed immediately after my confession and repentance, but the truth is, that was just the beginning of a long process, a journey out of darkness and into the light. The same is true for all Christians who desire to submit their sexuality to the Lordship of Christ—it's a long road of discipleship and sanctification. We want to highlight seven of our Taking Back Ground participants who have taken this discipleship road, and recently celebrated their completion of our two-year program. And yet, their stories aren't over—the journey of confession, repentance, surrender and obedience is one that each of these participants will continue to walk out for the rest of their lives.

With this truth in mind, we are excited to share with you the launch of our brand-new summer series, "The Journey: From Captivity to Freedom". This is an eight-week discipleship series that walks through the story of the Israelites and their journey out of bondage, through the wilderness, and into the Promised Land. This story has powerful parallels for those desiring freedom from unwanted same-sex attraction and gender confusion, as we walk out of the bondage of sin and brokenness, learn to trust God in the wilderness, and move into the hope of freedom, healing and wholeness in Christ.

To give you a glimpse of this process, we asked some of our recent Taking Back Ground graduates to share aspects of their journeys with us. Here's what Luke had to say:

*"I needed to give the Lord complete hold over my relational needs. Up to the 2022 TBG Retreat, I was still in captivity to pornography and lust, because I always left myself a back door in case things didn't go my way. At the retreat, I surrendered my rights to search for my perceived ideal father on earth. This commitment to only God the Father, and surrendering all my 'other fathers' I had constructed in the past (Matt. 23:9), truly allowed me to begin leaving Egypt."*

As we know from the Israelites' story, once they left Egypt, they encountered significant challenges in the wilderness, but they also experienced God's miraculous provision.



"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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Alyssa shares:

*“The ‘wilderness’ has been so, so painful and has felt lonely and hopeless. I’ve gone through deep depression, intense anxiety and shame. But God has used relationships to help me see more clearly His own steadfastness. He has used my brokenness to open up relationships with people in such healing ways for me, and has made me more approachable to others who are struggling. He has used this time to begin to lift the weight of shame which had rooted deeply in my heart.”*

As Christians, our ultimate hope is in Christ, and our ultimate “Promised Land” is being in heaven with Him. Yet, here on earth, we can hope in the “promised land” of redemption, healing and wholeness in Christ. Daniel writes:

*“God continues to draw me toward a loving relationship with Him. He longs to have me find my identity in Him (Psalm 139:14). He gently reminds me the path to freedom in Him leads to the foot of the cross (Romans 6:23). I am grateful my sin does not hold me captive to my fleshly desires.”*

And here’s what Trey is hoping in and moving toward:

*“My vision is to be affirmed in my own gender and fulfilled in my role as a husband, son, brother, and potentially, a father. In a more practical way, it means reaching for those things with an open heart and allowing God to meet each need.”*

We invite you to join us for “The Journey” and walk through your own process of leaving Egypt and moving toward the Promised Land. This summer series will feature short video lessons, questions for group processing, and time for personal sharing and prayer. We will be offering “The Journey” via Zoom, and meetings will take place on Tuesday evenings in July and August from 7-8:30pm (PST). To register, please sign into your account at [www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com), click on “Join a Program”, and select “2022 Summer Series: The Journey”. There is no cost to join, but a simple intake form is required to complete your registration.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers, encouragement and support of God’s incredible work here at Portland Fellowship. We are proud to partner with you as we continue sharing the Lord’s desire and power to transform hearts, minds and lives.

In Christ,  
Patrick Silvis  
Program Coordinator

## RHN HOPE 2022 Conference

This year’s Restored Hope Network annual conference, HOPE 2022, will take place on June 9-11 at Ridgecrest Conference Center, NC. This special in-person



conference will feature powerful biblical teaching, workshops, and inspiring life stories of those who have dealt with SSA and transgenderism and been transformed by the living God. Learn from some tender-hearted experts in helping others and supporting families. Speakers will include Dr. Julie

Hamilton, Tamika Sanders, Jeff Simunds and Dr. Paul Hruz.

For pricing, registration and more information, please visit [www.restored-hopenetwork.org/hopeconf](http://www.restored-hopenetwork.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

June 10

#### In-Person Hope Group

For friends and family of gay or trans-identified loved ones. 6:30 pm.  
[www.portlandfellowship.com/rsvp.php](http://www.portlandfellowship.com/rsvp.php)

June 2 & 16

#### Zoom Hope Group Program

[www.portlandfellowship.com/friends\\_family.php](http://www.portlandfellowship.com/friends_family.php)

June 9-11

#### RHN HOPE 2022 Conference

[www.restoredhopenetwork.org/hopeconf](http://www.restoredhopenetwork.org/hopeconf)

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

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