



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update october 2022

This year marks my 30th year of service at Portland Fellowship. At age twenty-one, I'd never have imagined that I would be serving God in this way three decades later.

I remember my first week on staff. I felt so inadequate. Phil Hobizal, the director and my boss, gave me the task of answering calls. I remember when the phone rang for the first time. My words then, as they are now, were, "Thank you for calling Portland Fellowship, this is Jason. How can I help you?" With my heart racing, I recall thinking, *"I hope they don't actually ask me for help, because I don't have a clue what to say to them!"*

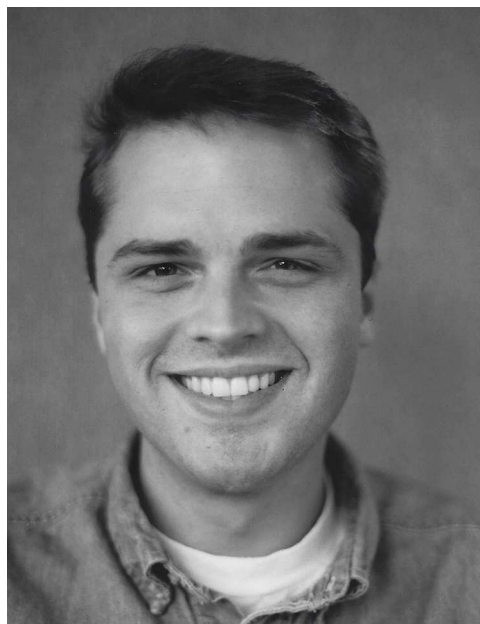
Over the decades, I've paused many times to consider how I got here. I can assure you that on "Career Aspirations Day" in eighth grade, I did not mark the box "Interested in: Sexual and Relational Wholeness Ministry." Although I would've never chosen this service, God *did* choose this for me, and I'm deeply grateful for it.

I'm thankful I grew in confidence in what to say and how to say it. Yet, the confidence was never a result of my talents or abilities... far from it. The ability to minister at Portland Fellowship is due to witnessing and putting into practice what the Lord was and is doing to set His people free and provide hope found in Christ. In all honesty, on my own, I still feel inadequate knowing how to minister to the various needs. However, the inadequacy reminds me that the work belongs to the Lord, and that I must regularly remember to rest in His ability to heal and restore. I echo Paul's boast in saying that He is made strong in my weakness! (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Because my service here is a calling, I've never felt the ministry owes me anything, yet the Lord has lavished countless blessings on my family and me throughout these past thirty years.

Blessings have come through God's faithful provision. I'm constantly humbled and grateful for the generous supporters that enable me to provide for my family and my staff, as well as to accomplish all God has for us to do. I pray we never take your generous gifts for granted and will always use them to build up His Kingdom—for His purposes.

Blessings have taken the form of beautiful friendships made throughout the years. I'm grateful for my friendship with my staff, volunteer leaders, supporters, prayer warriors, and church leaders that have stood alongside me throughout the years, cheering me on and encouraging me in the faith.



A much younger Jason in his first years of serving at Portland Fellowship.

"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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Blessings have taken the form of protection. In our current hostile world, the Lord is undoubtedly the one who protects us from harm. As I drive into work (near Antifa's playground), I often pull around the corner and see our Fellowship House still standing strong, and in those moments, I genuinely praise God for another night of His protection.

And, of course, blessings have taken the form of seeing lives changed. It brings me great joy to be on the front lines and witness men, women, and youth surrender their sexuality, identity, and lives to the Lordship of Christ. The joy for me is that as they keep their eyes on Jesus, they will experience freedom and delight in all the benefits that come with trusting God. (*Psalm 103:2*)

Occasionally I'm asked how long I'll serve at Portland Fellowship. I don't think I can answer the question because, much like I didn't choose to make this my ministry vocation, the Lord is the one who will direct my next steps. Until the day He leads me elsewhere, I will choose to rest in His leading, His wisdom, and His provision. And I thank you—from the bottom of my heart—that you would stand with me and support this work with your prayers, gifts, service, and words of encouragement. You truly bless me.

May we together see God's will done and bring glory to His name through the ministry of Portland Fellowship, now and in the many years to come.

In His service and His love,



Jason Thompson
Executive Director



New Resource Website: www.pfhope.com



We are excited to announce the launch of our newest website for encouraging video resources: www.pfhope.com This new site features all of Portland Fellowship's video series for friends and family of gay/trans-identified loved ones. It also hosts our newest eight-week video discipleship series, "The Journey: From Captivity to Freedom", which is geared toward Christians who are beginning their discipleship process of surrendering their sexuality to the lordship of Christ.

Our hope and prayer for www.pfhope.com is that it will allow friends, families, strugglers, and eventually pastors and wives to access encouraging discipleship videos that lead them into a deeper understanding of Christ's power to transform lives and offer hope. While this new site does ask for a donation, please let us know if finances are an issue—we will never turn anyone away due to financial hardship. Please share this new website with those in your community who would be blessed by it!

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

Discipleship program for Christians struggling with unwanted same-sex attraction. 7-9:30 p.m. PST

october 12-13

KathyGrace Speaking

Thrive Church in Elk Grove, CA

october 14

In-Person Hope Group

For friends and family of gay or trans-identified loved ones. 6:30 p.m.
www.portlandfellowship.com/rsvp.php

october 6 & 20

Zoom Hope Group Program

www.portlandfellowship.com/friends_family.php

Speakers and personal support can be arranged through the office.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com