



PORTLAND  
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update february 2023

Do you ever climb into bed with the intention of closing your eyes and getting a good night's sleep, only to be interrupted by overwhelming feelings that keep you wide awake? For me, many times, those feelings can be attributed to anxieties or regrets (like things I should or shouldn't have said), but other times, they are reflections filled with gratitude and thankfulness. The other night, my hours of interrupted sleep, thankfully, were filled with the latter. As I lay there that evening, my reflections were on the many years of ministry and the profound gratitude I have for you and your friendship with me and the ministry of Portland Fellowship.

These reflections were ignited by processing your year-end donations and new year pledges. To us, these gifts are not just transactions; they are personal. In reflecting on your names, we realized that many of you have been supporting PF for years—some for decades!

When Portland Fellowship became an official non-profit organization in the fall of 1988, the ministry was still meeting as a small group gathering at Hinson Baptist Church in SE Portland. We had no paid staff members, no curriculum, no worship team, no official logo or website, not even a computer—just a group of broken, hurting believers desperate for Jesus to do a healing work in our unwanted same-sex desires. And through Phil Hobizal, our founder, God blessed that rag-tag group of courageous Christians! Over the years, we were blessed to hire staff, develop programs, and now offer online video discipleship series for people all over the world.

As we were preparing for our annual board meeting and ran some reports, we were deeply humbled and encouraged by what we discovered: some of you have been praying for us, financially partnering with us, and encouraging us for over 30 years! To put it in perspective, some of our newest Taking Back Ground participants aren't even twenty years old yet, which means some of you have been supporting PF since before these new participants were even born! I don't say that to make you feel old, but rather to acknowledge how God's faithfulness is reflected in you.

In some of his New Testament letters, the apostle Paul's words express our gratitude better than anything we could conjure up:

- *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."—Phil. 1:3-6*



"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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- “As a result of your ministry, [we] will give glory to God. For your generosity to [us] and to all believers... prove[s] that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And [we]...pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!” –2 Cor. 9:13-15
- “How we thank God for you! Because of you, we have great joy as we enter God’s presence.” –1 Thess. 3:9

As our world and culture continue to drift further and further from the truth of God’s Word, we recognize that supporting a ministry like PF becomes more and more controversial. And yet, it is more vital now than ever that we stand together to offer the truth, grace, and hope of Jesus to a broken and confused world and walk alongside those Christians who are surrendering their sexuality to the lordship of Christ. We thank you for standing alongside us, even when it’s uncomfortable, scary, or brings about persecution. We don’t take your support lightly!

As we look forward to this year and the years to come, our desire is to cultivate more partnerships that may turn into another group of 30+ years of faithful friends joining us as we build up God’s Kingdom in the area of biblical sexuality. If you haven’t already, would you consider sharing the message and ministry of Portland Fellowship with those in your church, your family, and friends who might be willing to “take up the torch” and follow your example by supporting us regularly and in the years to come?

Again, we are so humbled to realize just how good God has been to this ministry through you, our partners, over the years. Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for encouraging us, especially in seasons when this kind of work is dismissed, ridiculed, or rejected. And thank you for sacrificially giving and supporting the Lord’s work of transforming hearts and minds here at Portland Fellowship. We, and the thousands of men and women who have been impacted by your generosity, are so incredibly grateful, and we look forward to many more years of seeing Jesus’ transforming work in action.

In Christ,



Jason Thompson  
Executive Director

## Last Call: 2023 Zoom Hope Group Course

There’s still time to register for the 2023 Zoom Hope Group Course! To encourage personal connection, encouragement and support for family and friends of LGBTQ loved ones, we are offering a 15-week Hope Group Zoom Course this year. The Zoom course will address topics such as:



- Disclosure & Grief
- Roots of Sexual Brokenness
- Family Dynamics
- Biblical Sexuality and God’s Transforming Power
- Restoring Relationships
- Boundaries
- Effective Communication
- Responding with Grace & Truth

The Hope Group Zoom course will run weekly on Thursday evenings, 6-8pm PST, from February

through May. To register, please go to: [www.portlandfellowship.com/friends\\_family.php](http://www.portlandfellowship.com/friends_family.php)

**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 february

#### Taking Back Ground

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

### february 10

#### In-Person Hope Group

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

### february 10-11

#### KathyGrace Speaking

Youth & pastors in Colville, WA

### february 14

#### Patrick Sharing

Pastors & leaders of N.E.T.  
@ Multnomah University

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

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