



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Friends,

update february 2024

One of the joys I have, as director of Portland Fellowship, is to work alongside some amazing people who love the Lord and are passionate about sharing the hope found in Christ with the people we serve. Our small staff can only accomplish what we do because of the work of the many who come alongside us. Yet, as the work continues to grow, the need for additional staff support becomes important. With this in mind, we have invited one of our faithful leaders to join our support staff. Please allow me to introduce Cole Atkinson to you:

Greetings in the Lord! I'm extremely excited to be coming on as support staff here at Portland Fellowship, where I've spent most of my ministry time over the last ten or so years. I started in the Taking Back Ground program back in 2012 after transplanting here from eastern Washington. I had spent the majority of my life confused about my same-sex attraction and it caused me to be unsure of God's love and concern for me. It was going through the TBG program and subsequently the Upper Room Community internship that really reshaped not only my view on what this struggle was, but who God was – a caring, loving Father who was deeply concerned about my wellbeing and identity. Without a hint of hyperbole, I can say it was a life-changing experience.



Cole has served at Portland Fellowship for over ten years.

*During one of my devotions in the later years of my time as a participant, the Lord really changed my heart through a couple of verses in John. At the beginning of chapter nine, Jesus' disciples are asking Him why a particular man was born blind: **Was it because of his sin? Was it because of his parents' sin? What was the reason that this poor man had to suffer from a terrible condition?** In my mind, I was that man—afflicted with a condition that caused me suffering and left me confused and angry as to why the Lord would let this happen to me. Jesus then tells His disciples that they were seeing the picture all wrong: **“Neither this man nor his parents sinned... but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” (John 9:3)** This drastically changed my relationship with my same-sex attraction. Instead of viewing it as this terrible condition that would perpetually be putting a wedge between me and Christ, it became a tool to help glorify Him. I now had a unique platform to display our Lord's wonder. I have seen this come about in two particular ways.*

First, I can show the world that despite what trials or conditions I might experience, including same-sex attraction, Christ will always be worth following. Jesus will always be more valuable, more worthy of my affection than anything the world can offer. Even if I should struggle with same-sex temptations for the rest of my life, I will choose to obey and love my Savior, because He is infinitely better than a life of fleshly gratification.

“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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Second, I can show the world that no one and nothing is beyond God's healing and transformative power. As I continue to submit all the areas of my life to Christ, I see God transforming my heart into something that looks more like His. I see Christ healing old spiritual and relational wounds, releasing me from unhealthy ways of relating. I have watched the power of same-sex attraction diminish and found freedom from the tyranny of sexual sin. I have found what it means to be washed clean, made into a new creation with the putting on of the new man. (1 Cor. 6:11, 2 Cor. 5:17)

And ever since then, I have committed to helping other men and women experience the transforming love of Christ through Portland Fellowship's programs. It is an honor and a joy to labor alongside the staff already serving here, and I hope that whatever small offering I can bring to the ministry, the Lord will bless and multiply it for His glory.

Once again, we are excited to bring Cole on board, who will assist us in resource development and in sharing the message of transformation. Please know that this can only happen because of your faithful support of this ministry. We thank our Fellowship Partners for not only helping us sustain our work, but also providing new opportunities like this to happen. And, as always, we invite those who are not yet Fellowship Partners to join us so that we can further grow our reach and share the hope of transformation in Christ.

In Christ,



Jason Thompson
Executive Director

2024 Xposed Conference



The 2024 Xposed Conference is happening on Saturday, February 24th! This event brings together several prominent organizations with seven exceptional presentations on betrayal, sexual addiction, conflict, and more. These speakers are ready to guide you on how your story can illuminate God's glory. Come hear from amazing experts like Jonathan Daugherty from Be Broken Ministries, Karen Crawford from Prodigals International, and Jason Thompson from Portland Fellowship.

Join us in person or on Zoom Saturday, February 24th, or purchase an all-access pass for unlimited access to all of the video trainings for one full year. To purchase tickets: www.xposedevent.com

Use the code **XP24-PF for 10% off registration.*

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 & Hope Group

Discipleship programs for Christians struggling with unwanted SSA, and for friends & family of LGBTQ loved ones.
6-8:30 p.m. PST

february 16
KathyGrace Speaking
KathyGrace will be sharing at Ekklesia Church in Ely, NV.

february 24
Jason Speaking
Jason will be sharing on "Differing Views" at the Xposed conference.
In person AND on Zoom

Speakers and personal support can be arranged through the office.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com