



Stronghold Ministry's Monthly Newsletter

The Exchanger

April 2010

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Prayer is not an after-thought, but a major tool in our support. Please pray with us for the healing of many.

Tell us your story.
We want to be
"in your corner."

877-230-7674 (toll free)
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Coming Events

*Abiding Prayer Ministry
For Women - Fridays -
9:00-10:30a.m.
Location may vary.
Call or write Terri Fornear for
more info - 214-221-7007.

Beyond the Chocolate

-Joe Fornear

Sometimes beneficial traditions lose their impact if we don't refresh their meaning. Christians have long celebrated Easter, but what does Easter really mean today... beyond the chocolate, of course? The answer is not all pie in the sky, by and by. Easter can have immediate, life-changing impact. Are you imprisoned by the chains of an addictive substance or behavior? Are you frustrated by your inability to eat right, exercise, or control that troublesome tongue? Are you plagued by worries and fears that darken your days and rule your nights? Easter offers the ultimate change agent!

You see, Easter focuses us on the ultimate power play, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from death. God's very "life" was released into the lifeless human body of Jesus Christ. **Amazingly, this resurrection life and power is also released into the lives of those who have received Jesus Christ as personal Savior!** Consider Paul's prayer:

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know ... the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead (Ephesians 1:18a, 19-20).

Wow. "Seeing" this truth requires supernatural illumination from God Himself. A robotic exercise of "tradition" will not connect us to its application. What *can* Easter mean for us today? For a starter, how does self-control with all of that Easter chocolate sound? After that, nothing is too hard.

Abiding Prayer Group - For Women

~Terri Fornear

I still remember the night during Joe's cancer battle, when Jesus gave me the promise, "Abide in Me, and my words abide IN you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). It was a simple, almost unbelievable promise. Since then I have desired to learn more about the abiding part of the promise, and to learn to do it with others *during* prayer. God has now gathered a group of women who desire to do Abiding Prayer . . .



We are learning to gaze at Jesus, Who sits on the throne of grace, interceding for us; our advocate, high priest, righteousness, healer and Savior. Opening our hearts to receive from Him, as we learn to sit in silence and meditate on Him. We then share with each other His Word given to each one, and watch Him take our burdens as we lay them in His hands. We are experiencing His peace, healing and unconditional, loving Presence. We are changed, as in 2 Corinthians 3:18, "*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*"

We invite any thirsty woman:

Friday Mornings from 9-10:30am (No meeting on Good Friday)
Specific location (in Dallas) may vary, so call Terri Fornear at 214-221-7007.

T e s t i m o n y T i m e

We are featuring the stories of warriors and caretakers. This month we share the amazing journey of **Ray S.** Ray battled throat cancer and now after 5 years of no evidence of cancer, his doctor declared him cured.

In November of 2004, eight months after marrying my wife, Chrysty, my neck was swollen and would not go down. After antibiotics and some CT scans, I landed in the office of a head and neck surgeon. He examined my neck and throat, looked at me and said, "You have throat cancer." My new bride looked like she had seen a ghost. The surgeon continued, "You are in Stage IV of squamous cell carcinoma and have a 50% chance of being alive in 5 years."

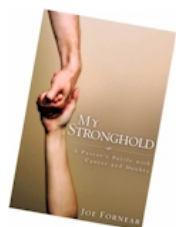
Three days later, still numb from the news, Chrysty and I found ourselves in church. The sermon was on Christ raising Lazarus from the dead. Right in the middle of the sermon, the pastor was reading John chapter 11, when he got to verse 4, the sanctuary got supernaturally quite. It was almost like time stopped, and God spoke to who I thought was only me. Here is what verse 4 says, "But when Jesus heard this, He said, 'This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.'" It was so otherworldly that I turned to look at my wife. She had just experienced the same thing and we turned to each other at the exact same time. We started balling, and we both knew we had just heard from God, and that I was going to make it.

That confidence kept us going all through the difficulty of the next year of my treatment and recovery. There was a supernatural peace that took over mine and Chrysty's spirit that was unexplainable. I needed it because I went through the most physical suffering I have ever been through.

Everything that could go wrong went wrong with my side effects during treatment. I developed second-degree burns on my back and neck from radiation. I developed a yeast infection in my esophagus, throat and mouth that hospitalized me for two weeks. I developed an anaphylactic reaction to Ethyol, which was a drug that was injected into my stomach everyday to protect my salivary glands from radiation. I eventually lost 60 pounds and was hospitalized a second time for about 8 weeks. I ended up on a feeding tube and addicted to dilaudid, which was the narcotic I was given every 2 hours for pain.

Right in the middle of my treatment, my mother died of cancer. On the way home from my mother's funeral, we got a call from my stepson that he had found one of my bird dogs dead in her doghouse. Somewhere in Arkansas in the middle of the night Chrysty pulled the car over on the side of the interstate and got outside and started crying and yelling, "Enough." I joined her but I couldn't yell because of the radiation, at this point, I couldn't even talk. The book of Job took on a very real meaning to me. Job 23:10 became a verse I clung to. "But He knows the way I take; When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

I am now five years post treatment and my doctor has declared me cured. God truly has worked all things together for good in my life. If you are struggling to see God in the midst of your battle, Stronghold Ministry can help encourage you and help you encounter the love of God when it seems He is far away.



My Stronghold - The book

Visit our website for more on Joe Fornear's book on his cancer battle, called, *My Stronghold, A Pastor's Battle with Cancer and Doubts*. <http://www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html>

If you're a cancer patient, or caretaker, we'll send the book at no cost. Simply write and tell us your story. We want to share your burden.





Stronghold Prayer Wall



Please join us in prayer for these warriors

Stronghold has reached out to this list of individuals who are fighting cancer or have fought cancer (some have other serious illnesses). We don't want to neglect the centrality of prayer for healing. Will you take a moment to intercede with us for these warriors? It is motivating to know our prayers are like a sweet incense to the Lord (Revelation 5:8).

Lord, please bring complete healing, strength and comfort to each of these You love so much.

Sign up for In His Grip

In His Grip is a weekly devotional e-mail intended to encourage and inspire those fighting cancer and those in any crisis.

To subscribe to In His Grip go to -

<http://www.mystronghold.org>

In His Grip Archives are at Joe's blog - just click on the "Blog" link.

Revelation 5:8

The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Mike D	Maryann	Sean	Clayton	Karen
Brisy	Bill	Frank	Kathy	Betty
Bekah	Tina	Larry	Sherry	Mr. H
Mr. W	Edward	Lori	Adair	Manuel
John	Dianne	Katrina	Matt	Bob
Bill	Vicky	Gregg	Mike	Nick
Jon N	Rachel	Ruth	Mildred	Bonnie
Rich	Stephanie	Sam	Anne	Misti
Gloria	Judy	Pete	Fred	Kristine
Claudia	Terri	Gina	Kaye	Alfredo
Jeff	Megan	Duke	Lois	Sandi
Carolyn	Ruth	Don	Gracie	Virginia
Laura	Hank	Jack	Tom	Linda
Mary Sue	Vivian	John	Cristina	Prudence
Ed	Tony	Richard	Johnnie	Tracy
Milton	Melody	Lori	Linda	Vicky
Sara	Michael	Sheila	Maurice	Inez
Rex	Susan	Betty	Gary	Kate
Monette	Joseph	Beverly	Pat	Tom
Joan	Emily	Darlene	Dylan	Debbie
Brian	Michael	Cheryl	Carolyn	Sara
Joanne	Robert	Karon	Rusty	Ethan
Kathy	Mike	Jacob	Bernard	Myrna
Sue	Debra	Rebecca	Cindy	Don
Garrett	Michael S.	Susan	Lisa	Will
Kathy	Debbie	Ms. M	Brian	Ric
Peggy	Barb	Bill	Nisha	Randy
Mr. L	Kent	Sharon	Sherri	Carlos
Becky	Ted	Luke	Ted	Mike
Frank	Andy	Nancy	Darcelle	Tina
Randy	Steve	Bill	Alan	Les
Sue	Lois	Holly	Jennifer	Traci
Mr. S	Chuck	Ben	Agnes	Trista
Susan	Karen	Diane	Fred	Marlin
Mrs. L	Pat	Allison	Dave	Timi
Priscilla	Jodie	Randy	Mary	Jordan
Stephanie	Matt	Nelia	Joanne	Scott
Lynne	Susan	Rick	Marilynn	Maria
Althea	Hudson	Linda	Johnny	Jack
Robbin	David	Akadrianna	Pat	Naomi
Correy	Darlene	Janet	Mary	Matthew
David	Lynda	Julie	Charles	
Angela	Yvette	Delora	Bill	

We try to maintain a balance of privacy and personalization. If your name or a loved one's name appears here and you do not wish to be listed for any reason, please write and ask us to remove - jfor@mystronghold.org.