



Stronghold Ministry's Monthly Newsletter

The Exchanger

August 2010

How to Help Cancer Patients & Caretakers -Joe Fornear

Inside this issue:

How to Help Cancer Patients & Caretakers 1
Suggestions to help support cancer patients/caretakers.

Abiding Prayer Group 1
For any woman who wants to tune into the voice and "life" of the True Vine.

From the Front Lines 2
Will and Kerri S. share raw struggles and freeing insights as they process the pain and challenges of walking with God through cancer.

Prayer Wall 3
Prayer is not an after-thought, but a major tool in our support. Please pray with us for the healing and comfort of many.

1) **Really pray.** Don't just say you will pray.

2) **Listen well.** Every person is different; every situation is different. Let people approach their battle their way. "*Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out*" (Proverbs 20:5). If you've never had cancer, do not say, "I know how you feel." Say instead, "I can only imagine how you feel."

3) **Don't underestimate the value of your presence.** Fight the urge to be profound, just "being there" is a huge statement. Be careful of true, but ill-timed clichés. It's true that God works all things out to the good, but someone might be better off with a hug or simply praying together.

4) **Let the patient/caretaker take the emotional lead.** "*Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep*" (Romans 12:15). Let people have negative feelings. Job, David, Gideon, and even Jesus were upset and distressed. "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" Don't be like Job's friends; lose those judgmental thoughts about the cause of your friend's cancer.

5) **Be careful with advice.** The longer I operate in this world of cancer, the more respect I have for the professionals. They're not perfect, but they know a lot more than me. If I make a medical suggestion, I always try to add, "But ask your doctor." A treatment that worked for one person may not work for another. And, please, supplements, asparagus, oxygen or alkaline conditions won't cure cancer. Some things might help a patient fight cancer, but there is no simple cure that "they" don't want us to know. Trust me, if some simple cure existed, *everyone* would know.

6) **Give practically.** Food and money *always* help. Most cancer patients are usually short on money because of the costs of battling cancer: reduced work hours; traveling for treatment; co-pays and deductibles; extra supplements/nutritional programs. Every little bit helps.

7) **Be hopeful.** Hope is always good, so be positive. A Christian doctor once said to me, "You're getting people's hopes up – you should just be preparing them to die," but I'd rather die with hope, than live with no hope. Don't be extreme in your hope though. I did not like it when people said, "You're going to beat this," as if I had that kind of power. Only the Lord determines the number of our days.

Let us know if you have other suggestions.

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

877-230-7674 (toll free)
jfor@mystronghold.org

Coming Events

**Stronghold Ministry
Banquet
Sunday, Oct 3rd - 6 PM
SAVE THE DATE
Speaker - June Hunt
At The Hope Center
in Plano, TX
@ Plano Parkway & Custer.**

Abiding Prayer Group - For Women

"Abide in Me, and my words abide IN you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7).

A gathering of women Abiding in Prayer together. We are experiencing His peace, healing and unconditional, loving Presence.

Friday mornings - 9-10:30 a.m.

Dallas Bible Church - 15765 Hillcrest Road, Dallas, TX 75248

Call Terri Fornear at 214-221-7007. *Child care not currently provided.*



Testimony Time

We are featuring the stories of warriors and caretakers we serve. This month we share the raw struggles and freeing insights of **Will and Kerri S.** as they process pain and challenges of walking with God through cancer. Will has been diagnosed with a rare (only 50 new cases a year) and highly aggressive cancer, Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor. They're pictured with their 3 children, Page is 6, Emma is 5, & Liam is 3.

Will wrote recently: "In all honesty, the hardest part is to just sit here not doing anything. I pray. I hope. I long for God to do His thing. What more can I do? I cannot do the medicine. I cannot leave or run around doing anything. All I can do is rest. But, more importantly, I can rest in Him! That is the key. Resting in Him. I have pain and negative thoughts. In spite of my understanding that I need to rest in God I sense the attack. I get moments where those fiery arrows hit me and I just feel it. Then, I try to drain the spiritual fire of its oxygen as quickly as I can. I mean, doesn't the power we give to evil come from what we permit the enemy to have anyway? By the authority given to me by my Father in Heaven, I will not let despair and pain overtake me. God created me. I do not have to take this. I do have to take my mind back however!"



Kerri wrote recently: "As we settle in to the new normal for our family, I realized how short our time is at home. We will be back at the hospital in less than 2 weeks. I have to figure out what to do with the kids, and start planning our mid-August trip back to Houston (from Dallas, for ongoing evaluation of Will's chemo regimen). For a mom who never left her kids before, I am leaving them more in one month than I have in the 6.5 years I have been a mom. It breaks my heart to be away from them so much, especially knowing that they are hurting for their daddy too. I just pray God's grace on their lives right now and that they learn to turn to Him when they are sad or hurting. That is a lesson that is so hard to let your kids learn, but it is an important one. And I know that God is faithful to give them peace, and hope and joy abundantly and without measure."

"I did finish reading a book while sitting there in the waiting room, and was happy I did. It is by a pastor in Dallas that was healed of terminal Stage IV Melanoma. It reminded me of Lance Armstrong's book, but with hope and inspiration. It talked about the ups and downs of cancer in a very real way. I found his story to be so similar to Will's that I couldn't help but think that it was God's way of encouraging us right now. It is called "My Stronghold" by Joe Fornear. If you know anyone fighting cancer, I would highly suggest you get them this book. It is the most encouraging book I have read since we started down this road."

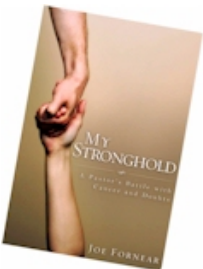
Please pray for Will and Kerri for total healing and strength.

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*.

At www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html.

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



Sign up for "In His Grip"

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

To subscribe to In His Grip go to our website -

<http://www.mystronghold.org>

In His Grip archives are at Joe's blog. Just click on the "Blog" link.



Stronghold Prayer Wall



Please join us in prayer for these warriors

Stronghold is reaching out to these individuals who are fighting cancer, or have fought cancer, and a few have other serious illness. We believe in the centrality of prayer for healing. Will you take a moment to intercede with us for these people fighting cancer? It is motivating to know our prayers are like a sweet incense to the Lord. *“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” - Revelation 5:8*

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

Mike D	Althea	Pat	Sharon	Carolyn	Inez	Evelyn	Bonnie
Mr. W	Robbin	Jodie	Luke	Rusty	Kate	Mary	Amy
John	Correy	Matt	Nancy	Bernard	Tom	Tina	Debrah
Bill	David	Susan	Bill	Cindy	Debbie	Marty	Fred
Jon N	Angela	Hudson	Holly	Brian	Sara	Rachel	JL
Rich	Maryann	David	Diane	Nisha	Ethan	Steve	Betty
Gloria	Bill	Darlene	Allison	Sherry	Myrna	Kim	Will
Claudia	Tina	Lynda	Randy	Darcelle	Don	Mary Jane	Celine
Jeff	Edward	Yvette	Nelia	Alan	Will	Carol	Donna
Carolyn	Dianne	Sean	Rick	Jennifer	Ric	Grant	Phil
Laura	Vicky	Frank	Linda	Agnes	Randy	Rob	Fred
Mary Sue	Rachel	Larry	Akadrianna	Fred	Carlos	Andre	Cosme
Ed	Stephanie	Lori	Janet	Dave	Mike	John David	Anna
Milton	Judy	Katrina	Julie	Mary	Tina	Linda	Ava
Sara	Terri	Gregg	Delora	Joanne	Les	Dorcas	Evelyn
Rex	Megan	Ruth	Clayton	Marilynn	Traci	Ivan	Elton
Monette	Ruth	Sam	Kathy	Johnny	Trista	Nancy	Dave
Joan	Hank	Pete	Sherry	Pat	Timi	Jessica	Bill
Brian	Vivian	Gina	Adair	Mary	Jordan	Emily	Lawrence
Joanne	Tony	Duke	Matt	Charles	Scott	Bob	Kathy
Kathy	Melody	Don	Mike	Bill	Maria	Quentin	Sheryl Sue
Sue	Susan	Jack	Mildred	Karen	Jack	Donna	Gipsy
Garrett	Joseph	John	Anne	Betty	Naomi	Christian	Jo
Kathy	Michael	Richard	Fred	Mr. H	Matthew	Kathy	Gino
Peggy	Robert	Lori	Kaye	Manuel	Lori	Toni	Sitara
Mr. L	Mike	Sheila	Lois	Bob	Kristen	Silas	Robert
Becky	Debra	Betty	Gracie	Nick	John	Gloria	Becky
Frank	Michael S.	Beverly	Tom	Bonnie	Leonard	Althea	Kellison
Randy	Debbie	Darlene	Cristina	Misti	Penny	Cathy	Linda
Sue	Barb	Cheryl	Johnnie	Kristine	Betty	Grace	Joyce
Mr. S	Kent	Karon	Linda	Alfredo	Lisa	James Earl	Molly
Susan	Ted	Jacob	Maurice	Sandi	Mechas	Pam	Louise
Mrs. L	Andy	Rebecca	Gary	Virginia	Phyllis	Sandra	Dee Ann
Priscilla	Steve	Susan	Pat	Linda	Mike	Steve	John
Stephanie	Lois	Ms. M	Dylan	Tracy	Hal	Cathy	
Lynne	Karen	Bill		Vicky	Frank	Donna	

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.