



Stronghold Ministry's Monthly Newsletter

The Exchanger

December 2010

Inside this issue:

Born In a Barn? 1
Rejoicing can happen in the midst of great hardships.

New Staff Member 1
We welcome Zinda Fuller to the Stronghold staff.

From the Front Lines 2
Toni K. shares her amazing battle against triple negative breast cancer.

Prayer Wall 3
Please pray with us for the healing and comfort of many.

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

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

Coming Events

**Abiding Prayer Group
for Women**
Friday mornings
9-10:30 a.m.



Were You Born In A Barn?

-Joe Fornear

I chuckle when I see those "Precious Moments" nativity scenes. The moment of the Savior's entrance on the earth was anything but precious. He was not birthed in some sanitized nursery, but in the straw, among barnyard creatures. These were likely large pack animals; horses, donkeys and camels, which of course emit large animal sounds and smells. The "sign" the angels gave to the Shepherds was that they could find the world's long awaited Messiah wrapped in clothes, and lying in a manger. Even then, babies were not lain in barnyard feeding bins lined with a layer of not-so-precious camel slobber. Though later in life, whenever Jesus left a door open, and his dad asked if he were born in a barn, he could respond, "Actually, I was, remember?" That first Noel the angel's did sing, but not because circumstances were so pleasant. There were hardships, as if God was preparing us in advance to bring praises despite troubles.

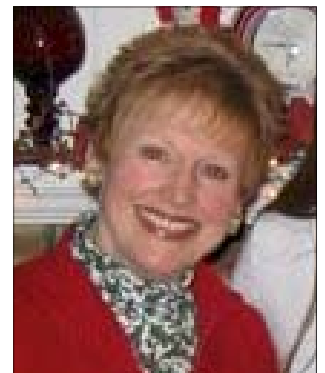


I remember my own not-so-precious Christmas Day in 2002. My surgeon called to give pathology results from my recent lymph node surgery. He was going out of town, and wanted to connect before he left. I'm glad he didn't wait. Still, it was a tough day to get the news. I had metastatic melanoma, and oh yes, Merry Christmas.

Yet during that difficult Christmas season, I was so touched and blessed when others thought of me in the midst of their celebrations. This season our heart goes out to many hurting cancer patients and caretakers who look to Stronghold Ministry for encouragement. Please pray for them. And, if you'd like to help financially, we will certainly bless many with your kindness. You can bring real comfort now, and all year round. Your gifts add up, so please don't think any gift is too small. You can give online at www.mystronghold.org/Donate.html, or mail checks payable to "Stronghold Ministry" PO Box 38478 Dallas, TX 75238. You can bring praises to God amid tough circumstances just like that first Christmas. Thank you!

New Administrative Assistant

Stronghold Ministry warmly welcomes **Zinda Fuller** to our staff. She is working in administration, events and development. She formerly worked for six years as a Pastoral Assistant at Fellowship Bible Church Arapaho in the Dallas area. Zinda was also the Speaker's Bureau Coordinator for Zig Zigar's organization for six years. She brings a great mix of energy and compassion to Stronghold's outreach to cancer patients. We are absolutely thrilled to have her in our corner!



Testimony Time

We are featuring stories of those we serve who are fighting cancer. This month we share the amazing journey of **Toni K**, who is cancer free since April after battling Stage IV triple negative breast cancer. Truly the Lord has granted her this healing despite incredible odds against her. **Please pray for continued healing for Toni.**

Toni found Stronghold Ministry through Women of Hope, her cancer support group at Calvary Chapel in Melbourne, Florida. She wrote: “Thanks for doing the work that you do....I know our group leader enjoys your website...she forwards us stuff all the time...so I signed up myself....glad to be on board.”

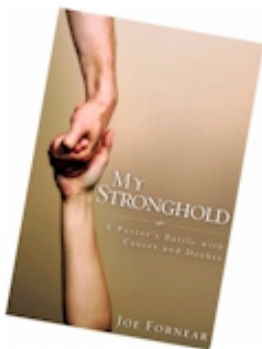
Toni’s story: “I was diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer in Dec 2007. It had spread to spine, hips, femurs, skull and liver, with spinal stenosis at T10-12. I spent 16 days in the hospital getting emergency radiation to shrink the tumors squeezing my spinal cord. I was unable to walk or sit...all I could do was lay perfectly flat. I slowly got strong enough to come home, and start chemotherapy in Jan 2008. Since then I’ve had 3 rounds of different chemo meds, as while on chemo my tumors would go away, but would return when I stopped chemotherapy. I’ve had a total of 42 rounds of chemo and weeks of radiation. I started attending church in Jan, 2009. I rededicated my life to Christ that first day back and was baptized in June. In April 2010, I attended an elder prayer service and had the elders anoint me with oil and say prayers of healing over me*. The next week, I got my 1st clean PETSCAN without being on continual chemo. Since then I’ve had 3 clean PET-SCANS, and have been off chemo for 7 months now. God has heard my cries and rescued me....I now volunteer in 2 different chemo rooms, working with patients still in treatment. I documented my journey in a scrapbook that I share with the patients to show them that things will get better and to hang in there, and keep the faith. That God is still in the Miracle Business...and he does hear us. Is God awesome or what?”



Toni and her husband, Monte.

*The prayer service Toni refers to here is based on James 5:14-15, “*Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.*” Stronghold Ministry strongly recommends cancer patients and all who are sick to follow these instructions for prayer and healing. We believe the Lord will do more miracles if we simply ask in the way HE guides us to pray!

My Stronghold - The book



Visit our website for more on Joe Fornear’s story and book about his cancer battle, *My Stronghold, A Pastor’s Battle with Cancer and Doubts*.

www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html

If you are 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 on our website.



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. 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 whom Jesus loves? 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 all.

Mike D	Rachel	Lori	Brian	Jordan	Pam	Jon	Ken
Mr. W	Stephanie	Sheila	Nisha	Scott	Sandra	Clark	Chris
John	Judy	Betty	Sherri	Maria	Steve	Don	Tommy
Bill	Terri	Beverly	Darcelle	Jack	Cathy	Joe	Danny
Jon N	Megan	Darlene	Alan	Naomi	Donna	Sheryl	Mimi
Rich	Ruth	Cheryl	Jennifer	Matthew	Bonnie	Kenedy	Joe
Gloria	Hank	Karon	Agnes	Lori	Amy	Amy	Jimmy
Claudia	Tony	Jacob	Fred	Kristen	Debrah	Cindy	Heidi
Jeff	Melody	Rebecca	Dave	John	Fred	Benji	Janet
Carolyn	Susan	Susan	Mary	Leonard	JL	Pearl	Jane
Laura	Joseph	Ms. M	Joanne	Penny	Betty	Dale	Carol
Mary Sue	Michael	Bill	Marilynn	Betty	Will	Phil	Michael
Ed	Robert	Sharon	Johnny	Lisa	Celine	William	Debbie
Milton	Mike	Luke	Pat	Mechas	Donna	Bill	Beth
Sara	Debra	Nancy	Mary	Phyllis	Phil	Meg	Brenda
Rex	Michael S.	Bill	Charles	Mike	Fred	Tim	Julie
Monette	Debbie	Holly	Bill	Hal	Cosme	Michael	Cheryl
Joan	Barb	Diane	Karen	Frank	Anna	Vicky	Sara
Brian	Kent	Allison	Betty	Evelyn	Ava	Harold	Terri
Joanne	Ted	Randy	Mr. H	Mary	Evelyn	John	Lilly
Kathy	Andy	Nelia	Manuel	Tina	Dave	Joan	George
Sue	Steve	Rick	Bob	Marty	Bill	George	Martha
Garrett	Lois	Linda	Nick	Rachel	Lawrence	Dewayne	Susan
Kathy	Karen	Akadrianna	Bonnie	Steve	Kathy	George	Rita
Peggy	Pat	Janet	Misti	Kim	Sheryl Sue	Richard	Peter
Mr. L	Jodie	Julie	Kristine	Mary Jane	Gipsy	Nicole	Kay
Becky	Matt	Delora	Alfredo	Carol	Jo	Susan	Junie
Frank	Susan	Kathy	Virginia	Grant	Gino	Dennis	Bob
Randy	Hudson	Sherry	Linda	Rob	Sitara	Pamela	Carolyn
Sue	David	Adair	Tracy	Andre	Robert	Terry Joe	Helga
Mr. S	Darlene	Matt	Vicky	John David	Becky	Chuck	Jim
Susan	Lynda	Mike	Inez	Linda	Kellison	Darcy	Mark
Mrs. L	Yvette	Mildred	Kate	Dorcas	Linda	Eloisa	Louis
Priscilla	Sean	Anne	Tom	Ivan	Joyce	Matilda	Lana
Stephanie	Frank	Fred	Debbie	Nancy	Molly	Barbara	Sheryl
Lynne	Larry	Kaye	Sara	Jessica	Louise	Jamie	Toni
Bubba	Lori	Lois	Ethan	Emily	Dee Ann	Jackie	Barbara
Althea	Katrina	Gracie	Myrna	Bob	John	Vicki	Mark
Robbin	Gregg	Tom	Don	Quentin	Maura	Roseann	Gail
Correy	Ruth	Johnnie	Will	Donna	Leon	Maryellen	Eric
David	Sam	Linda	Ric	Christian	Ann	Sylvia	Yvonne
Angela	Pete	Maurice	Randy	Kathy	Leona	Brenda	Peggy
Maryann	Gina	Gary	Carlos	Toni	Cynthia	Gene	Bunny
Bill	Duke	Pat	Mike	Gloria	Dallas	Tina	Seth
Tina	Don	Dylan	Tina	Althea	Wayne	Leonard	Beverly
Edward	Jack	Carolyn	Traci	Cathy	Kathy	Jodi	Harry
Dianne	John	Rusty	Trista	Grace	Taylor	Johnny	Brenda
Vicky	Richard	Cindy	Timi	James Earl	Keith	Itai	Laura

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.