



Stronghold Ministry's Monthly Newsletter

The Exchanger

February 2010

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Do we return the unconditional love that God has for us?

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

Tell us your story.
We want to help.

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

Coming Events

*February 7th, Sunday - Terri Fornear will share her testimony, at the Women's Retreat of Dallas Bible Church. The event is at a camp on Lake Texoma in North Texas.

Call or write for more info.

Advancing In Surrender

-Joe Fornear

We make much of God's unconditional love for us, and rightly so. Where would we be if His love had strings attached? The word "incinerated" comes to mind. His unconditional love provides us a huge second chance. We can receive forgiveness of our sins through Christ's work on the cross! At the cross, He proved the unconditional nature of His love. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us when we had proven ourselves enemies. Romans 5:8 & 10 marvel at this love:

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

So how do we respond to this type of amazing love? First, we should drink it up. Only His love can fill that empty void in our hearts. But secondly, we should return it. I love the attitude of the three young men in the Book of Daniel who were about to be thrown into a fiery furnace for publicly worshipping God. "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." Their love for God was unconditional. They set their hearts to love Him first and foremost, even if He didn't answer their prayers.

I see this unconditional love for God in many people who are battling cancer who write or call us at Stronghold Ministry. Many hope for the same type of miracle I had. They know divine intervention is their only hope. Yet they believe that no matter His decision, they express unconditional love for Him.

They know He is good - all of the time. Frankly, they challenge me to surrender more deeply to God, Who is an unconditionally loving God. A crucial question remains for all: do we only love Him if He answers our prayers?

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New Weekly Email Devotional "In His Grip" - Sign Up Today



We are seeking to provide consistent encouragement to our friends who are battling cancer. So we have launched a new weekly devotional publication called, "In His Grip." We email this each week to all who subscribe. You do not have to be a cancer patient. You can subscribe on our website's homepage, or by sending us an e-mail and indicating you want to be added to this list.

Testimony Time

We are featuring the stories of warriors and caretakers we serve. This month we share the story of **Lori F.**, who was diagnosed in July, 2009 with cervical cancer. In December, she was declared NED (No Evidence of Disease). Please pray for Lori's continued healing. We asked Lori if she is back to running again, and she reported she ran 5 miles last Saturday and is planning to run the White Rock Marathon next year. Last year she ran four miles of the Rock.

After returning to Dallas in the fall of 2006, I returned to my gynecologist who delivered my two oldest boys. He tested me for HPV, and to my surprise it came back positive. That was shocking news after being married for 24 years, but the virus can remain dormant for years. I started getting Pap smears every six months. I had a biopsy in July and my doctor called me personally after the test. After he told me who was calling, I said, "This is like being called by the Principal. It can't be good." He informed me that it was indeed bad news, but he felt that the cervical cancer was in the early stages. Within the next two weeks, on the 4th of August, I saw my oncologist and scheduled a hysterectomy for August 11th. I had been training for the White Rock Marathon and the doctor said I could get back to running after recovering for three to four weeks, whenever I felt up to it.

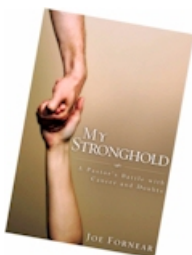


Pictured with Lori are her three sons.

The hysterectomy went great and my doctor's felt like they had removed all of the cancer. During my appointment to remove the staples, however, he informed me that I would need radiation because they discovered stage II cancer cells. I started back running and also started my radiation. The first two weeks were easy. I would go to the radiation center for treatment every day at lunch. Then at the beginning of week three, I stopped running, and started spending my evenings in the bathtub. My girlfriends had given me a copy of Joe's book, My Stronghold, before my surgery. I didn't read it, however, until I had a major pity party. Knowing that Joe had allowed himself a pity party or two made me feel much better. I also received a box full of gifts from Stronghold Ministry, another book that I have passed along, a daily devotional book that has meant so much to me, and a plaque that sits on my night stand that says, "HOPE." I made it through my six weeks of radiation. It was by far the hardest thing I've ever done. They let me heal for two weeks and on the 26th of October, I had internal radiation. On December 28, my doctor let me know that I am cancer free.

There are still some residual problems as now I have Irritable Bowel Syndrome, but for the most part, I am fine. I was truly blessed to have my parents and my boys by my side. My Sunday school class, the Lake Highland's High School baseball team parents and the Lake Highlands community in Dallas were wonderful to bring dinners while I was recuperating from surgery and unable to go to the grocery store during radiation. The doctors and their personnel were incredible. The bad memories fade and the blessings remain. I would encourage every woman to get tested for HPV and keep current with regular checkups.

~Lori F.



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 Visit Stronghold's website for more on the book, My Stronghold, A Pastor's Battle with Cancer and Doubts. Go to: <http://www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html>

If you are a cancer patient, or a caretaker of a cancer patient, we will send the book at no cost to you. 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.*

## 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.

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