



Stronghold Ministry's Monthly Newsletter

The Exchanger

January 2010

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His grace will be there for us in the future - so we can be at rest now and always.
~Joe Fornear

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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.

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Coming Events

***January 24th, Sunday** - Joe and Terri will share their testimony, and Joe will preach at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Valdese, North Carolina.

***January 30th, Saturday** - Joe to speak at the Grace Life Seminar of Exchanged Life Ministries at the Hope Center in Dallas.

Laugh At The Future

-Joe Fornear

It's hard to miss the media reviews of 2009 and the last decade. I believe the best reviews draw out the lessons from recent events. I want to wade in with my own review and lesson, in hopes we might carry this lesson forward into the next decade. No deep insights about Barack or Britney here, yet for those in or out of the spotlight, we all have one thing in common, and that is crisis. The scripture says in Job 5:7, "For man is born for trouble, as surely as sparks fly upward." Ultimately, troubles and crises are unavoidable. Though certainly some troubles are avoidable, no matter how diligent and proactive we are, eventually some sort of trouble will find us. This decade, as a pastor, cancer survivor and friend to cancer patients, I have participated



in my share of crises. My takeaway lesson is this: God always gives us what we need for each moment to endure any crisis. A common mistake is to look down the road and wonder how we will handle the trouble in the future. Can you relate? "Will I have enough strength; finances; forgiveness; or wisdom?" "Can I handle the

God always gives us what we need for each moment to endure any crisis.

pain; the rejection; the loneliness?" Jesus said, "Today has enough troubles of its own." He wants us to trust Him for each moment. Sometimes He takes away the crisis; sometimes He tells His followers, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9). This is why the woman of faith in Proverbs 31 could "laugh at the future." She trusted God each moment for all the grace she needed. Actually, in reviewing human history, this lesson stands out as one of the great take-aways of all time. At the end of the day, every day, all days, He reigns. LOL!

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.

End of Year Giving to Stronghold Ministry

If you are planning some last minute end of year giving, please consider helping Stronghold reach and walk with cancer patients. You can mail us a check or donate online from our "Donate" page at www.mystronghold.org/Donate.html. Stronghold is a 501c3 non-profit organization, so donations are tax deductible. For mailed donations to be deductible in 2009, they must have a 2009 postmark.

Testimony Time



Pictured with Pat (second from right) - daughter, Michelle, and her daughter, Cora; husband, Charles; and son, John.

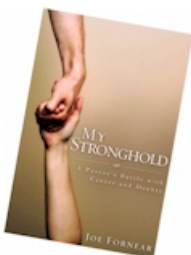
*We are featuring the stories of warriors and caretakers we serve. This month we share the story of **Pat N.**, who was diagnosed in April, 2008 with a very aggressive type of breast cancer – HER-2 position, grade 3, stage 2. Though seven months earlier, she had a complete physical with no signs of cancer, her tumor had quickly grown to the size of a small lemon. She took Herceptin, and by August 4th, scans showed no cancer. At the end of September, she had surgery with the pathology determining once again that there was no sign of cancer. Pat’s surgeon said it was “a God thing,” and that she had never seen such a rapid and thorough response to the treatment. She said it was as if Pat never had the cancer. Glory to God. Please pray for Pat’s continued healing.*

In May of 2008, many voices were shouting at me as I struggled with the news of a recent cancer diagnosis. The sound was deafening. I desperately wanted to hear only God’s voice, to hear Him say, “This is the way, walk in it.” As I cried out to Him, He silenced the noise and began speaking to me in many ways, but perhaps most through Joe and Terri Fornear. Sharing their personal war story with cancer, how God had led them to pray, what they had learned through the journey, and most importantly, how God had hold of them, not the cancer. This was a huge anchor God threw to me in the midst of my storm. So when Joe spoke of writing his story, with great anticipation I looked forward to the day of *My Stronghold’s* publishing.

For a surprisingly short, easy read, *My Stronghold* is a precious book of treasures. Already marked with red ink, water spots from tear drops, personal notes and creases, my own copy has become somewhat of a reference for me as I continue my journey now as a cancer survivor, and, more importantly, as I seek to minister to others facing dire diagnoses too. I love how God’s Word is foundational and interwoven throughout the book. I appreciate the very practical information offered not only about medical treatment, but especially about interpersonal relationships during such situations. And I have finally found some Biblical answers to long sought out questions about healing and prayer. *My Stronghold* strikes a Biblical balance when addressing those hard issues regarding God’s will on healing, and His part in healing for the times in which we live.

Just recently, my monthly lab reports showed some reasons for alarm. I quickly remembered Chapter 22 of Joe’s book where he details his own false alarm incidents. Joe shared how each time, in such moments he was reminded of the opportunity to share his faith and personal story with those he would come in contact with in the medical profession. You see, Joe’s story is about God’s hold on him – not cancer’s hold. So I too am reminded of the Truth. God owns my life; He has hold of me. I do not live in fear of cancer. I live because of God through Jesus Christ. “In Him, we live, and breathe and have our being.” Thank you Joe and Terri! Thank you, Fornears, for penning your journey, your struggles and the beautiful Truth! Praise God.

~Pat N.



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Visit Stronghold’s website for the book, [My Stronghold, A Pastor’s Battle with Cancer and Doubts](http://www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html). 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.

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