



Stronghold Ministry's Monthly Newsletter

The Exchanger

May 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)
jfor@mystronghold.org

Coming Events

*Abiding Prayer Ministry For Women

Fridays - 9:00-10:30a.m.
Dallas Bible Church -
15765 Hillcrest Road,
Dallas, TX 75248
Terri Fornear - 214-221-7007

Replacing Fear

-Terri Fornear

I can so identify with the daily flow of emails and phone calls that come in from all over the country to Stronghold. There is a fear first experienced when a doctor places that word "cancer" on you. I remember our doctor sitting me down after Joe had lymph nodes removed. He told me it was "metastatic cancer." At first I was thinking, *what kind of cancer is that?* I had not seen a lot of cancer in my family. So I just sat there, numb with fear of the unknown.



It's this place where an "intruder" comes into my life. Bigger and stronger than me, I am taken off guard and I freeze.

It's the place where I feel totally alone and not equipped to win. I sometimes still face that place.

It's in that place of "fear" that I am beginning to listen, really listen, to Another's voice. I replace the fears with His words. How many times did Jesus come to people and say, "Do not fear, I am here"? "Fear not, I will never leave you." He is so aware that we are fearful. He does not condemn us. He does not wait until we get our fear under control. No, He comes right into the middle of it, and says, "I AM here." Yes, He is right there in the middle of cancer. What looks like the end is really the beginning of His love working deliverance. 1 John 4:18, "*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*" He is standing up against the fear in our lives and casting it out, while He perfects us in His love. He is not punishing us. He wants to use the "intruder" to bring in His unconditional love and grace to us and all those around us.

So what do we say to those who call or write us about their fears with cancer? I stand with them and Jesus, casting out that fear with His perfect love. This is how Stronghold Ministry gives people the message of Jesus' abundant grace, and shares His gift of righteousness to any that will receive Him.

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).

God has gathered a group of women who desire to do Abiding Prayer together . . . We are learning to gaze at Jesus, 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.



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

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

Call Terri Fornear at 214-221-7007

No child care currently provided

Testimony Time

We are featuring the stories of warriors and caretakers we serve. This month we share the amazing journey of **Ruth C.**, who lives in Indiana and was born in Haiti. She has helped start a school, orphanage and church in Haiti. Find out more about Ruth's work at www.haiti-world.org.

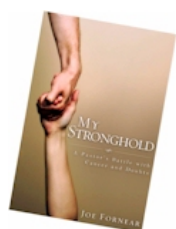
I would like to thank Stronghold Ministry for their prayer support, and Joe for inspiring me with such a wonderful book.

In late spring of 2009, I started to experience some pain in my right shoulder following an exercise class. Naturally I assumed a pulled muscle was the cause, but the pain got worse. A couple of weeks later, I went to see doctors who misdiagnosed me with arthritis, pinched nerves and gall bladder infection. I was prescribed steroid shots and vicodin, but nothing helped. I woke up one morning with trouble breathing and a rapid heart rate. My husband rushed me to the ER, and the doctor ordered an X-ray and ultrasound of the chest. The results turned my world upside down.

I was quickly diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that had spread to my liver, lungs, gall bladder and pancreas. This all meant automatic Stage IV with a death sentence attached. We prayed and trusted in God for healing. I was transferred to another hospital the very next day and 3 days later my heart rate shot up to 180 beats per minutes, my lungs filled with water, my internal organs swelled up, and I looked like I was eight months pregnant. I drifted in and out of consciousness in between the barrage of testings, but though it all, I never thought I would die. I trusted in Almighty God who created my body, and not the doctors who had failed me so many times before. Upon further inspection at the new hospital, the pathologist decided that it was not pancreatic cancer and did not know its origin, so it is called "cancer of unknown primary." This added to my frustration. Later I learned that there was no cancer in my pancreas at all. The tumors were mostly in my liver and lungs, but those in the liver were so large they were pushing up against other organs making them hard to see.

A week and a half later, my health had deteriorated so badly that doctors told my husband to ask me if I wanted to continue fighting for my life. What kind of question was that to ask a 36 year old mother of three young children ranging from ages 3 to 9? Soon after, my husband was given just 2 hours to decide to put me on life support or else I would die. But God had other plans for me.

My mother, a woman of great faith, sat at my bedside and began to pray and wrestle with God for my life. At the same time, my brothers were praying in Haiti. Soon after, my heart rate, fever and blood pressure stabilized, and I was moved out of the ICU. A few days later, I went home to start chemo. The tumors shrunk with each treatment. Just eight months later, my CA125 tumor markers are normal and a small tumor shown in the scans in my liver is completely dead. No detectable cancer cells are in my body! Praise be to God through whom all things were made. This was all possible because of the daily prayers of friends and family and my amazing walk with God. He has done it! He overturned my death sentence and now I live for Him.



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

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

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.