



Stronghold Ministry's Monthly Newsletter

The Exchanger

April 2011

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Jesus is always working, even when we can't see how.
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Please pray with us for the healing and comfort of many.

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

Coming Events

Healing Prayer Meeting

3rd Tuesdays
7:00-8:00 p.m.
@ Dallas Bible Church

Abiding Prayer Group for Women

Friday mornings
9-10:30 a.m.
@ Dallas Bible Church

Ephesians Bible Study for Men

Friday mornings
6:30-8:00 a.m.
@ Dallas Bible Church
Call 214-221-7007 for info.

Living By Faith, Not Sight

-by Terri Fornear

I love spring, but not all the rainy days which bring about its beauty. In February and March, I often wrestle with depression and doubts. This year has been no different. You would think I'd be ready for that "time" each year, but it still seems to catch me by surprise.

Last week, as I backed out of the driveway, I was in a "blue mood." I glanced over at the side of my house, and there was a patch, a couple dozen... ALOT of brand new iris shoots popping up. I pulled over to the side of the road, to look... and listen.



His voice, the Good Shepherd's voice, seemed so real, as if He was beside me, smiling and whispering.

Terri, you planted two bulbs four years ago. Remember? You dug in the dirt, the hard dirt. You picked out grubs, moved ants, watered, and planted two bulbs. Then you walked away, hoping they would make it. Your faith was covered by doubt. Yet look now. You received much more than you expected, and did little to make the growth happen. While I hid the sun behind the clouds, you "saw" nothing," and felt only doubts. Didn't you plant those in February or March?

So don't be wise in your own eyes. Don't look at what you see. Trust in Me with ALL your heart, and do not lean on your understanding. Acknowledge Me, I will make your paths straight, just like I make a bulb produce a flower.

These moments are so precious to me. He is so real. He sees my struggles, yet doesn't judge or condemn. He gently reminds me He has been here all along, walking with me when it's dark and cold. Spring is coming around the corner. And even better, there will be a day when we will see Him face to face. Then we will not need seasons of this life to teach us about His love. We'll see Him face to face. The day our faith blooms.

Happy Resurrection Day this year!

Healing Prayer Meeting—monthly in Dallas

God has power over our most difficult obstacles... even cancer. Come pray with us at our **Healing Prayer Meeting**. We don't guarantee miracles, but we certainly believe we should ask for one! "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2). Bring your loved ones to pray together with us, or come as a proxy for someone who is not able to come. Let's just see what He will do!

Healing Prayer Meeting—Stronghold Ministry

3rd Tuesday of each month 7:00-8:00 p.m. @ Dallas Bible Church
15765 Hillcrest Road, Dallas, TX 75248
Call 214-221-7007 for more info.

Testimony Time

We are featuring stories of those we serve who are fighting cancer. This month we share the journey of **Carla & Rick C.**, who are from Oklahoma. Rick was diagnosed with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia in February 2007. Carla shares their journey with us.

Rick was on oral chemo for 18 months when the disease no longer responded. So in July 2009, he received a stem cell transplant at MD Anderson in Houston. We lived there for 6 months, 3 months longer than the recommended 100 days due to complications after transplant. Rick has endured many procedures and a lot of pain. We are currently tapering off anti-rejection medicine in hopes to get off other medicines that have many side effects. He continues his journey to recovery, as this is a long and slow process. I would love to tell you we are living happily ever after, but as anyone knows that is walking this journey, it is a hard walk. We are like babies learning to walk. Just about the time we let go of the steady chair we are hanging onto, we take a fall. We cry, then laugh, brush ourselves off and stand back up and try again. We really are learning what is our "New Normal." The one thing we hang onto is we know GOD IS GOOD! We believe we will emerge from this part of our journey with our precious Heavenly Father in our True Identity. The one we are known for in Heaven!



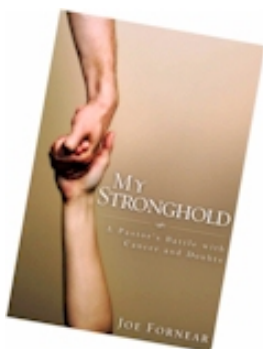
Back in October 2010, Carla wrote on her CaringBridge blog:

I couldn't sleep this morning, been up since 3:00 a.m.! I laid in bed for a while, but the night seems to be a time that the devil wants to come and bring thoughts that keep me awake! So I thought I would get up and dance to some praise songs (while listening to my iPod so Rick could sleep) and see what God had to say instead of the enemy! Ha! That will teach him to wake me up for torment! Hope the devil gets tired of me dancing and humming and loving on Jesus that he lets me get sleepy again and go back to bed. You see when I don't get enough sleep my body does ok for a while and then crashes.

I checked in on Facebook and found I am not the only one that gets tormented in the night. Darkness seems to make life and its problems seem so much bigger than they are. You see we cannot afford to believe and meditate on the lies the enemy whispers to us in the darkness. When we allow things to appear bigger than the solution our God carries we are in trouble. When our hope in God is cloaked in darkness, we are like a candle without oxygen and our flame goes low.

What is a thought that you have been thinking that is stealing the air from your candle? When God identifies that thought for you, ask Him to take His flame of love and give you the renewed thought that His heart carries for you. This thought is the solution to the pain and darkness you feel.

I want to add a word about Stronghold Ministry. I remember having a really hard day, and then went to my mailbox. We received a package from Stronghold that had books, a tote bag, a word of encouragement, and my personal favorite, gift cards to Subway Restaurant. In our office building we have a Subway at the other end of the building. So the cards were a great blessing. The prayer, gifts, and continued encouragement are truly a gift from God.



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 go to our website -

<http://www.mystronghold.org>

In His Grip archives are at Joe's blog.

Just click on the "Blog" link

<http://www.mystronghold.org/Blog/>



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?

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

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 we will remove - jfor@mystronghold.org.