



Stronghold Ministry's The Exchanger

April 2009

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Coming Events

- **Cancer Support Group**
Thursday evenings @ 7 p.m. Call for location - 214-221-7007



- **Women/Men's Tea**
Friday, April 3rd from 7-9 p.m. at Debbie and Dan Youman's home - 9506 Bill Browne Lane Dallas, TX 75243

Power Play in Crisis

- Joe Fornear

Easter is all about overcoming crises and circumstances. In the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, God displayed His ability to trump evil plots and even whip man's ultimate enemy, death. Though we need His intervention on a moment by moment basis, most of us find it easier to seek Him in a pinch. We tend to be do-it-yourselfers until faced with major trouble. Bad health, financial turmoil and squirrely relationships all bring us to the end of our human strength. I admit, I hate that helpless feeling, don't you? Yet we shouldn't give up when we're at the end of our rope, because His power begins where ours ends!

He wants us to not only know, but to experience His

incredibly awesome power! Are you aware of this power He offers at Easter and year round? Paul seems to think we need some help to grasp the concept:



Ephesians 1:18-22 - I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know ... the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe... this power is in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in

Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places (NASB).

Are you aware of this power He offers at Easter and year round?

Lord, open our eyes to "see" and experience the full extent of Your power which is working to help us in our crises and in our daily life and inside of us!

If At First ...

Last month, Stronghold Ministry's cancer awareness event was abruptly halted by a small attic fire at Joe and Terri Fornear's home in Dallas. A recessed light fixture in the kitchen sparked and ignited during the meeting. No one was hurt and the Fornear's have now moved back home and are completing the remodeling of their kitchen. Our speaker, Chris Forbes, was only a few minutes into sharing how the Lord walked her through her battle with breast cancer. We have rescheduled the gathering to Friday, April 3 at 7 p.m. Chris will resume her story, and as a bo-

nus, her husband Jeff will add his perspective. If you live in Dallas, we would love for you to attend! Men are invited too.

We are thankful for **Deb and Dan Youman**, who will host at their home at 9506 Bill Browne Lane, Dallas, TX 75243. Please join us as we hear the rest of Chris and Jeff Forbes' story. We will also share how the Lord is using Stronghold Ministry to reach and support those who are battling cancer.



Chris Forbes



Prayer Corner

As Stronghold reaches out to those with cancer we want to lift them up in prayer and would love for you to take a moment to help us intercede for these warriors:

Joan Tom B
 Rich Violet
 Patrick Mike D
 DAVE
 Donna John N
 Brisy Bill
 Brenda Kathy
 Gloria Mike P
 Jeff Betty
 SUE
 Carolyn Claudia
 Monette FRANK
 Milton
 Janice Peggy
 Rex Brian
 Joanne Becky
 Mary Sara
 BEKAH Laura

Testimony Time

We are featuring testimonies from warriors and caretakers we serve. This month we share **Mike P's** journey towards the Lord. Mike is from Princeton, Louisiana.

I am sitting here typing this story with my right hand. I lost the use of my left hand due to internal melanoma tumors. The first removed was the size of a grapefruit which was removed in early 2008. I had my lymph nodes removed in 2008. Then in late September 2008, another tumor was discovered in my left shoulder. It had wrapped around the carotid and axillary arteries and when they tried to remove it, they cut nerves and I lost about 90% use of my left hand. At this time my wife of twelve years said she could not stand to watch me die. She left and has lost herself in alcohol and drug use. All of this is real sad taken at face value. However, during this period as cliché as it may sound, I found God. This loving, caring God that I asked into my life has given me comfort and hope.

God was always there, I just never reached out. I intellectualized God and never tapped into his power. He loves me and cares for me. God is with me in good times and bad. I have never been religious. I talk to God like a friend. If you find yourself afraid, at your wit's end, no place to turn, talk to God. I can't guarantee cures but I can guarantee comfort. Talk to him like a friend. It's pretty easy to be honest with someone who knows everything there is to know about you. There's nothing to hide. God loves me and cares about me in spite of everything I have done. What a gift. At fifty three years old, cancer has given me a gift that no one can take away. Everlasting life and peace that I have never known before. The problems and pain are still there, but I have a friend who is always there. I just need to talk to him and listen. Answers come from a lot of different sources. Talk to God and listen for the answers.

Why I Help Stronghold Ministry

by Diane Neal, RN



We asked one of our Advisory Board Members, Diane Neal, a registered nurse, to describe her time in oncology nursing. We believe professionals in the field are in great need of support and prayer.

I once worked in an oncology unit for 3 years. It was the most intense in my 30 years of nursing. Many nurses refused to "float" to our floor because of the overwhelming nature of the work. Most patients were there for intense rounds of chemo. Family members were always close by... pulling me into the hallway to talk ... searching my face for rays of hope. I remember feeling so pulled, wanting to sit and talk to bring hope and comfort ... but realizing I had 5 other patients. Hmmm... now that I think of it, how great it would have been to have a ministry like Stronghold to refer them!!

I felt strangely privileged to be with patients and families on the edge of life and death, but also very overwhelmed with sadness for many of them. Of course, their view of life after death greatly affected their attitudes. I saw a wide variety of how people handled this. Some aspects of oncology nursing I loved were:

- ** Nitty gritty talks about life/death, etc. You bypass all the "formalities."
- ** Praying with patients... none EVER turned that down and were very eager and thankful!
- ** Because of the lengthy stays, some special relationships developed with patients and families. I remember several invitations to come to their homes later, or correspond through letters. You don't typically have that sort of closeness on other floors.

I am very excited about Stronghold Ministry. I think... no, I KNOW there is a great need for this type of organization. I am sure the Lord is going to use and bless you in this!