



Stronghold Ministry The Exchanger

Issue 1, Volume 8

Some Real Good News

Greetings and welcome to our first edition of *The Exchanger*, the new monthly newsletter of Stronghold Ministry! In these newsletters, we want to be a source of good news to you no matter what your life is like—whether you are battling cancer, sweating a

job loss, grieving a relational struggle or you just plain need some encouragement. You see, experiencing His touch requires no crisis. We all need Him to hold us up with His strong arm in the every day matters of life. We hope to

remind you that Jesus Christ is our Healer, Comforter and Best Friend. So we hope you come back to read and be encouraged again and again. He brings really good news, 24/7/365, so stay tuned.

-Joe Fornear

The Abiding Place . . . While I'm Waiting

-Terri Fornear

Waiting is one of my least favorite things in life. I do not do it well. One of my least favorite places to wait is in a hospital waiting room. I remember once sitting at six in the morning waiting for Joe to come out of surgery. I was alone except for a family that was waiting for their mother and wife to come out of surgery. At one point, the woman's husband said, "I hate melanoma, because every time they open her up it seems to spread." At the time, Joe was having that exact same surgery.

When I wait, I seem to hear so clearly all the awful things that might happen. The robber's voice grows louder and louder. He steals my peace. He replaces it with anxieties and fears. It's a battle and being positive does not help me win that

battle. I need a weapon greater than my mind. I need a person to calm me down. I need the reality of Christ's Life fighting for me. He does fight, as I abide in Him.

I am learning to hide in Christ while I wait. To wait in the gift that He is. His presence. Looking to the Kingdom of God within where His life dwells. Letting His Spirit comfort when nothing else does. It's a gift that is often missed because He doesn't always come the way I expect.

A lot like His birth on earth 2000 years ago. He was missed then. They did not think God would arrive in a barn, surrounded by



animals and strangers. He was wrapped in rags, not a blue blanket. The song says it was a silent night. That sounds kind of peaceful, but not what I would expect for God's entrance into His world. The Jews were waiting for a Savior, yet they missed Him too. I am always waiting for some big entrance from God in my circumstances. But He has already entered the believer's heart. He abides there, sometimes silent, but always confident and in control of His purposes. I just need to abide with Him. . . as I wait.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Waiting ... | 1 |
| How We Got Our Name | 2 |
| From the Front Lines | 2 |
| Beyond the Medicine | 2 |

Prayer Request

- Ask the Lord for connections to help us reach more people who are hurting physically and spiritually and need His comfort and truth

Coming events

- Hometown Christmas trip to Pittsburgh/Erie to visit family's, friends and to support some cancer warriors
- Visit Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh where Joe had Interleukin-2 chemo—to visit with staff
- January—telling our story in Fort Worth
- Men's Encouragement Group to launch in January

Check out our website @ www.mystronghold.org



Stronghold Ministry

When you're losing your grip, remember He has a stronghold on you.

Board Members:

Bill Bludworth
Morgan Davis
Stewart Maxwell
Ben Mullen

Executive Director:

Joe Fornear

*O my strength,
I will sing praises to
You; For God is my
stronghold.*
Psalm 59:17 (NASB©)

214-221-7007
www.mystronghold.org
jfor@mystronghold.org

A 501(c)3
non-profit organiza-
tion. Donations are tax
deductible.

Make checks payable
to: "Stronghold Ministry"

Please mail to:
PO Box 38478
Dallas, TX 75238

What's Up With Our Name?

-Joe Fornear

Do you wonder where our name "Stronghold" comes from? When some Bible students think of a stronghold, they think of the New Testament verse in 2 Corinthians 10:4, where Paul says he wants to "tear down strongholds" (some translations translate it "fortresses"). In this context, a stronghold is a negative thing, a human or demonic scheme to keep the Lord out. But the word is simply a military term for a strongly fortified position. It can be used as either a positive or negative fortress. In the Old Testament, the Lord is often referred to as a stronghold, a place of protection and a refuge from enemies. King David clung to God in this way in Psalm 59:16 & 17, "For You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of

"The good news is we were never intended to handle anything in life alone."

my distress." David also saw the Lord as His general to fight his battles for Him. He considers the Lord his source of power and ability, "O my strength, I will sing praises to You; For God is my stronghold." During the invasion of cancer into my body 6 years ago, I found the Lord to be such a comfort and source of strength. The whole ordeal was far beyond my human ability to endure. God comforted me with the fact that I should not fret, He was hanging on to me. This is part of the message we bring to those in the midst of intense cancer battles and major crisis. The good news is that we were never intended to handle anything in this life alone—even cancer. Are you trying to hold everything up on your own?

From the Front Lines

-Joe Fornear

I ran into a friend at a coffee shop and we caught up on news about our spouses and kids. Later she wrote, "I had to tell you that our appointment was divine. I was sitting with a cancer nurse who was so discouraged because she does not see much healing. We were actually talking about it when you walked up. Your testimony was such an encouragement to her! She REALLY knows what a miracle it was. God

is amazing." Now Stronghold Ministry doesn't believe God guarantees healing to everyone who prays with faith. But we know that He uses caring people like this oncology nurse to perform wonders. Sometimes He works healing miracles, but I found, with rare exceptions, He displayed His tender compassion through these nurses and doctors to me. Let's pray for those on the front line.

Beyond the Medicine

-Joe Fornear

A recent article in The Annals of Surgical Oncology described a study of surgeon's care of patients with life-threatening diseases. The abstract begins: "Spiritual and religious concerns often become of central importance in the care of surgical oncology patients confronted with their mortality. Unfortunately, surgeons are often ill prepared or reluctant to address the spiritual and religious needs of their patients." We can hardly expect surgeons to fully meet these needs. They have their hands full

with the medical demands. We believe there is a tremendous need for the ministry of Stronghold. Almost daily, cancer patients turn to us to find someone who not only understands but who can encourage them while navigating the maze of spiritual questions. Almost daily we are hearing from desperate people who are asking us for help. Will you help us help them?

Thanks to my sister, Mary Beth Kavanagh, who sent me this article.