



Stronghold Ministry's The Exchanger

December 2009

Inside this issue:

Abiding In A Besieged City

1

The Lord allows us to be surrounded by enemies - so He can bless us.

~Terri Fornear

From the Front Lines

2

A warrior shares her journey in fighting cancer while trying to help her ailing father.

Prayer Wall

3

Prayer is not an after-thought, but a major tool in our support. Please pray with us for healing.

New Toll Free Number

Tell us your story.
We want to help.
877-230-7674

Coming Events

***December 7th** - Joe will share his testimony at the Dallas Bible Church Business Forum, 11:30am-1:00pm at the "M" Café located at the NW Corner of Arapaho and Coit in Dallas.

***January 30** - Joe speaks at a Grace Life Seminar of Exchanged Life Ministry at the Hope Center in Dallas.

Call or write for more info.

Abiding In A Besieged City

I remember Christmas Day in 2002, when we received the news that Joe had "metastatic melanoma." I remember the tree lights, the candles in church, the neighborhood lights, and the darkness in my heart. I felt like we were the only ones who couldn't get our lights on.

I also remember feeling at the time that Jesus' birth didn't seem to have a lot of relevance to cancer. I was like Israel in Jeremiah's day when God said in 32:33, "They turned their backs to Me and not their faces." Before the cancer hit, I'm not sure how much God was seeing my face. Yet I was busy doing His Work; having Bible studies, decorating the church, buying gifts for those I love and dressing up in the Christmas spirit. When I heard Joe had cancer, it stopped me cold. I had to look at God face to face.

We were in a besieged city... a walled-up city with an enemy surrounding us. But His ultimate goal was to bless us. This Christmas, I read Jeremiah 32:38:

"They shall be My people, and I will be their God; and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good and for the good of their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me. I will rejoice over them to do them good and will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul."

What "land" does He plant me in? The Life of Jesus.

God does something miraculous in the person that receives His gift, Jesus, in their heart. He changes that heart ...

He gave us a new covenant which gives us a new heart that will fear and follow Him. A heart that can look Him straight in His face with no hint of condemnation, and is able to receive His rejoicing over us to do us good. A heart that makes us His child and heir to all that He has for us. One of those great gifts is boldness to go into His throne room to approach Him face to face and ask whatever we wish. John 15:7, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." Do we believe our wishes could be His... that He has given us His heart and He will lead this heart into His good and His wishes for us? **Jesus' birth has all the relevance to cancer and to anything we face. Jesus is His Christmas gift. Have a joy filled Christmas!**

-Terri Fornear



"The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a light dawned."

Matthew 4:16

Testimony Time

*We are featuring the stories of warriors and caretakers we serve. This month, we share the story of **Debbie**, who was diagnosed with colon cancer that spread to her liver and to a spot on her abdomen. Please pray for her healing.*

First of all, I want to thank you for the time you have spent talking with my daughter. You have been such an encouragement to her. She is having a hard time with this and needed to reach out to someone who had been through this experience, and I believe the Lord sent you to her.

Please know how much I appreciated your telephone call and the wonderful gift basket. What a great ministry you have, and a gift to help people through this terrifying time in their lives. Most days, I am able to accept what I cannot change and feel the need to live life to the fullest. I believe it is most unfortunate when we waste the time we have being afraid and sad. Then there are those moments when the fear overtakes me and panic sets in. I am trying my best to limit these times, and dwell on the fact that I serve an almighty God who has this situation under control. He will do what is best for me and I know that. I pray for healing and more time with my family. It is amazing how finding out news like this makes life so much sweeter. In one respect, it has given me more of a chance to live and enjoy life. I thank God for salvation and his grace and mercy and in all things pray that his will be done.

Your book has helped me more than you could know. In a sense it is refreshing that you tell things the way they are. I know this next round of chemotherapy will not be pretty, but with God's help I can survive it. I must look at it as a means to conquering this disease.

Recent Update:

September 1 of this year, I returned to Duke Medical Center to discuss my situation with the surgeon. I was under the impression that this was just to get him on board to follow my case after chemo for possible surgery (to remove part of my liver). Much to our surprise not only did he tell us he thought surgery was my only choice for long term results, but he wanted to schedule it now. Needless to say, I was a bit overwhelmed. He was very thorough and offered to answer any questions we might have, and gave us as much time as we needed to make a decision. However, after a brief moment of numbness, I said let's schedule the surgery. He explained to me that I have a spot in the abdomen wall that they believe is cancer. I also have a spot near the top (middle) of my liver along with a tumor which, in his opinion, is laying on an artery which supplies blood to the bottom of my liver.

I was so overwhelmed by the news of surgery, I guess it took all of my energy to focus on what was going to happen in the days ahead. On September 17, I had one-half of my liver removed. Once again, thanks to God's healing touch, was told it was a success. There have been no complications. Since this time my dad has had some health issues. I spent a week at North Carolina Baptist Hospital and traveled back and forth for several more weeks. The mental strain and physical exhaustion did complicate my recovery, but being the only one to make decisions on his behalf, I needed to find an appropriate rehab facility for him before starting chemo for the second time. After much frustration, I now have my dad in a nice facility within 6 miles of my home. He is doing well, although I doubt if he will ever be able to return home. Since getting him settled, I have had to have fluid pulled off my right lung and I am in the process of recovering from pneumonia. I am scheduled for a PET/CT scan on Wednesday, December 2, before starting chemo on Thursday, December 3. I am scared. My faith remains strong, but I am so mentally tired. One thing I am sure of is that God can heal me.

Oh, by the way, I am going to be a grand mommy in June. I am so excited, and I believe God will allow me to take care of that sweet baby.

I have been so blessed my entire life. Through every situation I can see how God has taken care of me. Joe, please lift me up in prayer. Once again I am asking for God's grace and mercy to help me through this difficult time. I pray that God will give my family strength as they take care of me. God bless you and your ministry. I can't tell you what a relief it is to have a friend to talk with as I go on this journey with cancer.

~Debbie

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