



# Stronghold Ministry's The Exchanger

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## Coming Events

- Cancer Support Group launching this month



- Ladies Tea - "God's Footprints Through Breast Cancer"



## What Drives Stronghold Ministry?

You may wonder, what makes Stronghold Ministry tick? Our passion to help cancer patients flows from our own experience with cancer. During our battle, we received plenty of medical, physical and even emotional support from professionals and lay advisors, but there was little spiritual input from those who truly understand how to climb out of the dark tunnel of living with cancer.

Like so many, when faced with a life-threatening disease, we too turned to our Creator with great urgency. We realize He welcomed this depth of relationship, for it is often in crisis that we grow closest to Him. So we want to come alongside cancer patients and help strengthen and encourage them with the comfort and lessons we received. We reassure them that He seeks out the weak, to show Himself strong on our behalf. We seek to accept the patient wherever they are in their journey, whether

The timeless solutions of the Bible are still operating today.

crippled with fear, dripping with resentment or simply confused.

We are unapologetically Christian, centering on Jesus Christ and His teachings in the Bible. We are not afraid to claim, "Thus saith the Lord...," since we believe He delights in speaking to us through the love letter that we call the

scriptures. We believe the Bible has so much to offer, and for cancer patients and caretakers particularly, there is an incredible treasure. The

timeless solutions of the Bible are still operating today. What better way to encourage a person than to remind them of God's very Words? His compassion must accompany His Words. So we seek to follow the Bible's instruction to weep with those who weep. Dealing with cancer is hard enough without trying to handle it alone in a spiritual desert!

-Joe Fornear

## Front Lines - News on Cancer

### Survivor's Stress Underestimated

When a cancer patient completes treatment with a good prognosis there is nothing but relief, joy and happy-ever-after, right? Wrong. In the December, 2008 Harvard Mental Health Letter, an article references Dr. William Pirl, a Massachusetts General Hospital psychiatrist who works frequently with survivors. He concludes, "Cancer survivors typically feel more vulnerable, anxious, and uncertain about the future after treatment ends." This is because the support of medical professionals has ceased and friends, family and co-workers often expect a rapid return to

"normal". But life after cancer can be full of challenges, complications and concerns. If you or someone you know battles with depression after surviving cancer, don't be surprised, this phenomena is very common. Sometimes we just need to know we are not alone, that others experience the same feelings and emotions. We also need to be reminded that there is One who will continue to carry us after the heat of the battle, so we will never, ever be alone.

Special thanks for alerting us to this article to Mary Beth Kavanagh who is Joe Fornear's sister. If you discover an interesting article on cancer, please send us an e-mail.



**Prayer Corner**

As Stronghold reaches out to touch people 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 individual warriors:

Patrick Mike  
 John  
 Donna Brisy  
 Janice  
 Brenda  
 Gloria Mike

- Pray for healing
- Pray for the presence of Jesus to be real in each one's life.
- Pray that God's Kingdom be glorified in each life.

**Ministry Prayer Needs**

- That Jesus leads this ministry daily.
- His Life would be the main gift given and received.
- A home for "The Abiding Place"

**The Chairman of the Board Speaks Out**

"It's a great privilege to serve on the Board of Stronghold Ministry. Having known Joe and Terri Fornear for many years, I know of their strong commitment to sharing Christ's Life as the source of hope to all people. And that is one of the great strengths of Stronghold Ministry - people are being counseled through this great trial in their lives through a Christ-centered, and Bible-directed approach, which is not always easy to find. It's been very exciting already to hear of people literally across the globe hearing of Christ's love for them. I'm looking forward to the expansion and growth of Stronghold Ministry in the future!"



-Ben Mullen, President, Board of Directors of Stronghold Ministry

**The Abiding Place  
 A NEW YEAR..... A NEW WISH**

The words **wish** and **want** came up recently as I was meditating in His Word. Those were the words He gave me that night I wanted wisdom on how to pray for Joe when he was in Pittsburgh for treatment and death seemed to be at the door. That simple verse that made me laugh, at the impossible.

*John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you Ask whatever you Wish (want) and it will be done for you.*

I remember chuckling at God and saying to myself REALLY anything I **wish**? Of course at the time I wished for melanoma to leave Joe's body. So I said MY WISH out loud and went back to sleep. For some reason I was finished talking with God. I just wanted to see if He kept

His Word. I said what I wanted and asked for it. I think He smiled back because He knew His plan.

That was 6 years ago.

Today, I have more **wishes** and more **wants**. I get all messed up because I try to bury them in my ability to make them happen. He meets me a g a i n through His Word.

*Luke 18:41: Terri, pray at all times, do not lose heart, look at the widow (who had no one to lean on, no one to manipulate her wish). He says to be like her, she wanted justice and she kept asking until the Judge gave it to her. She wanted justice. What do you want? I will not delay long for those who cry to Me day and night, but*

*will I find any with this kind of faith on earth?*



I sense that I am going to meet this God who seeks to show me miracles as I learn to pray in truth and Spirit.

"I said what I wanted and asked for it. I think He smiled back because He knew His plan."

*James 1:17, Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,*

*with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*

My hands are open again, my need is great, my wants are strong. This year I will cry out to Him day and night and watch Him bring about the impossible.

-Terri Fornear