



# Stronghold Ministry's The Exchanger

March 2009

## Inside this issue:

Tea Interrupted By Fire	1
Tea To Be Continued	1
Warrior's Testimony	2
Prayer Corner	2
Board Member Weighs In	2

## 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

## Before We Were So Prudently Interrupted

Stronghold Ministry hosted its first women's tea at Fornear's home on February 27th. There was an unexpected twist as speaker Chris Forbes began sharing how the Lord walked her through battling breast cancer. A crackling sound from a recessed light over the sink seemed like a minor distraction. But moments later one of the women followed her nose into the kitchen and discovered smoke seeping out of the wall. The light had spewed some unseen sparks that were smoldering in the attic. Soon fifteen men and women from the Dallas Fire Department crashed our celebration with a water hose and axes. Our kitchen ceiling and wall were chopped up and hosed down, leaving an overwhelming mess...



### Bad Timing?

Our first thought was, Lord, this seems like very strange timing. We were hearing such great things about You and celebrating You! Couldn't you have taken care of this fire before it broke out or maybe waited until the tea was over?



How symbolic of the day when a person hears they have cancer, that unwelcome

intruder. Life is humming along when a fire breaks out, sirens blare, hoses are fired off, leaving dripping water (tears) and messy tarps full of questions. All the while helpers scramble to control the fire.

While we may not understand the reasons or timing for difficulties

in our lives, one thing is certain - He is in control. His ways are not ours. He promises to trump what appears senseless or evil. In the end, Jesus will be glorified - without interruption!

### Tea To Be Resumed

Stronghold Ministry has scheduled the party to resume Friday evening, April 3 at Debbie and Dan Youman's home from 7-9 p.m., 9506 Bill Browne Lane, Dallas, TX 75243. Please join us as we hear "the rest of the story" from Chris and Jeff Forbes, and introduce the ministry.



As one firemen left the house he exclaimed, "There is a lot of estrogen in there." Jeff Forbes and Joe Fornear, the only men at the tea, strongly agreed. They had never been to a women's tea before, but agreed to try again. Next time they are hoping for excitement of a different nature. They are challenging men to come to the rescheduled tea. We welcome any man that has the courage to show up! Maybe more people need to hear ...

- Joe and Terri Fornear



### 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  
 Patrick Mike D  
 Donna John N  
 Brisly Bill  
 Brenda  
 Gloria Mike P  
 Jeff Betty  
 Carolyn Claudia  
 Monette  
 Milton  
 Janice  
 Rex Brian  
 Joanne  
 Mary Sara E  
 BEKAH Laura

## Testimony Time

We are now featuring testimonies from warriors we serve. This month we share a prayer of thanks from Mike D. from Lexington, Ohio.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for making me realize how fragile life truly is. Thank you for teaching me, lifting me, carrying me and holding me. With my teachers placed by you on my journey, I have experienced the Blessings of Love, Courage and Comfort. From here at home to Texas. Joe & Terri Fornear of Stronghold Ministry have given me their Hearts, in Spirit and in Prayer. With many other Prayer Warriors we will fight our cancer, not mine, but OURS. As together, with you Lord, we will win, no matter what. As Joe is my mentor, he is my guide on this awesome journey. When the Devil's darkness approached, I reached to Joe, as he took my hand; he pulled me UP!! Sharing "God's Stronghold" from his experience. I went from feeling "Unbelievable" to "AMAZING!!!" What a story to live and share. Thank you Lord, for my smile. It reflects the warmth in my heart you have given me. It's YOUR smile. Amen.  
Mike D.

## Why I Help Stronghold Ministry

by Stewart Maxwell

Stronghold Ministry has been blessed by generous support through prayer and financial gifts. This is significant during difficult economic times, providing a strong base which allows Joe and Terri to focus on serving people who find themselves in crisis.

Many people in desperate situations do not know that they can be completely forgiven by God. This is a person's primary need, to have a saving relationship with our Creator, who will keep a strong grip on each of us. And then God may choose a miraculous healing or some other type of healing. In Mark 5:2, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Jesus addressed the man's greater need first.

Joe and Terri have a special gift in relating, from their own experience, to people who need to hear this message of forgiveness and salvation. They also have a vision for teaching others how to serve in the same way. I was privileged to be a church leader alongside Joe and walk with the Fornears through their experience with Joe's illness. This was part of God's preparation for walking with my own family through my father's experience with metastatic tumors in his lung and brain. His oncologist said, "You are unique - you are out of the text book! Most patients with your state of disease would already have had several metastasis." The glory is God's. And yet, in the midst of treatment, with low odds and no assurance of the outcome, it was a wonderful experience to stand with my family and friends, unified by the Holy Spirit, believing that God is Good no matter what!

God prepares us for these crises not by strengthening us, but by showing us our true weakness. In weakness, He gives us all the strength we need, and gives it freely. This is what everyone needs to know who is chosen by God for any trial. This is the message of Stronghold Ministry, and that is why I want to be a part of it. Thank you for being part of it, too.

Stewart is Secretary on the Board of Directors of Stronghold Ministry. Stewart has worked in the telecommunications and software industries.



Stewart Maxwell (R) and his father, Garrett