



Stronghold Ministry's The Exchanger

May 2009

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Coming Events

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



- **"Dealing With Feelings" Workshop**
Saturday, May 2
9:30-11:00 A.M.
Terri Fornear's home
9618 Queenswood Lane
Dallas, TX 75238
RSVP: Terri - 214-221-7007

Getting What You Deserve

-Joe Fornear

At some point during the TV show, Extreme Makeover, Homeowner Edition, my wife, Terri, will look over at me and ask, "Are you crying?" No! Must be something in my eye. I honestly think it is difficult not to cry. The show typically highlights the rough living conditions of a selfless individual who takes care of the sick, infirmed or bereaved, while simultaneously caring for their own large families. So the cast and volunteers tear down the old home and build a customized mansion for the grateful family. If that doesn't tug at your heartstrings, then... go watch your Simpsons. There is one recurring scene in the show, however, that always makes me cringe. The bullhorn guy, Ty, explains that the reason the family is getting this royal treatment is because they *deserve* it.

Attitudes haven't changed much in two thousand years. Jesus' disciples in-

formed Him that a Roman centurion, whose slave was very ill, *deserved* to be healed (Luke 7:1-10). The man had evidently been kind to Israel by building their house of worship ~ in the Temple Edition of Extreme Makeover. When Jesus wanted to visit the slave at his home, the centurion refused because he was "unworthy". So Jesus healed his slave from a distance and marveled aloud at his faith, "I have not seen such great faith even in all of Israel." Apparently, great faith entails a humility that we don't deserve anything from God.

We don't deserve that He should enter *our* homes, let alone bless us there or give us a new one! Sometimes we summon the Lord like He is our cosmic bell hop. I need to learn that God "owes" me absolutely nothing. In fact, because of my countless sins, all I really deserve is eternal punishment. Are you getting what you deserve in life? Hope not.

Great faith entails a humility that we don't deserve anything from God.

Dealing With Feelings - Workshop for Moms

Over the years of trying to help children with learning differences, it became obvious to Stronghold Ministry's Assistant Director and Certified Language Therapist, Terri Fornear, that tangled emotions can prevent academic progress. Before she could focus on learning, she sometimes needed to troubleshoot her student's emotions. She learned to help the child identify their emotions and then lead them to God's Word to find freedom. To assist moms and others in this process, she has compiled a book of ad-

vice and scripture references called, "Dealing With Feelings". She will explain how to use this tool at a workshop on Saturday, May 2. The tool works for adults too. Moms, teachers and all who work with kids are invited!

Dealing With Feelings Workshop

Date: Saturday Morning, May 2
Time: 9:30-11:00am
Place: Terri Fornear's home
9618 Queenswood Lane
Dallas, TX 75238

RSVP: Terri Fornear - 214-221-7007



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:

Lynne

Joan Tom B

Rich Violet

Patrick Mike D
DAVE Susan

Donna John N

Brisy Bill

Brenda Kathy

Gloria Mike P

Jeff Betty

Carolyn Claudia

Monette SUE
Stephanie

Milton

Janice
Rex Brian

Joanne

Mary
Sara E

FRANK
Peggy

Laura

Testimony Time

We are featuring testimonies from warriors and caretakers we serve. This month we share the journey of caretaker, **Patti B.** Patti is from Elm Mott, Texas.

In June 2006, my son was diagnosed with Stage III, Adenocarcinoma Stomach Cancer. He was only 35 years old with a wife and 3 small children (4, 3 and 2 months). When the doctor said they must remove his entire stomach, we looked at each other and wept. He was given a 5% chance of survival for one year. I started searching to find someone - anyone - who had gone through this and survived. I stumbled across a dear man, Joe Fornear, while searching the Dallas Morning News. The newspaper office gave me his e-mail address and I sent a note at once. I leaned on Joe throughout my son's ordeal, asking - no, begging - for prayers. Joe assured me he was praying for my son's healing. I knew Joe was there ready to give the spiritual guidance and support that I needed. I had never known the true meaning of "turning it over to the Lord", but after Joe assured me the Lord is in control and can handle our problems, I completely turned it over to Him.

After a grueling year and a half, my son was finally on the road to recovery. In June 2009, he will be 3 years out with no evidence of disease (NED). Praise God - all the glory goes to Him! I know that without the prayers and e-mails from Joe and from many wonderful people, my family could not have made it through this terrible ordeal. Something good always happens through our trials and tribulations - you see my son had never accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and during this time, he was saved - praise God. He was also told he would never have any more children. Well, you just don't tell God what He can and can not do. We now have a 7 month old baby boy. Another miracle from an awesome God!! If you or a family member has been diagnosed with cancer, please don't hesitate to ask Joe and Stronghold Ministry for help. Joe has been through cancer himself and has dedicated his life to helping others with his love, prayers and spiritual support. Reach out and let someone hold your hand during your time of need.

Why I Help Stronghold Ministry

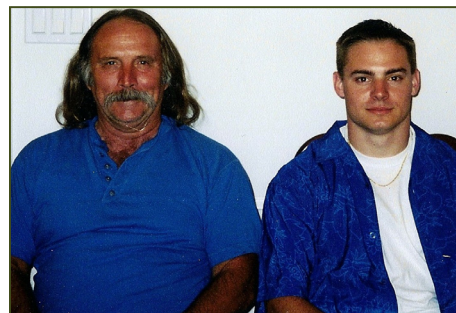
by Morgan Davis

Morgan Davis is a Stronghold Board member and does a fantastic job as Treasurer of our ministry.

With many "strongholds" in today's society, organizations like Stronghold Ministry are in dire need. Joe and Terri have a fervent calling to reach those affected by issues such as cancer. Joe's remarkable healing is a powerful encouragement to many people, but the hope of Christ is even more powerful.

Seven years ago, my dad was diagnosed with metastatic esophageal cancer. He had a long history of addictions and abuse, living a very self-centered and irresponsible life. In more recent years, he struggled to stay sober and searched for spiritual truth, but was still missing what he really needed, Jesus. His cancer progressed past the point of treatment and he got progressively worse. A friend of his came to see him towards the end of his battle and talked with him about Jesus. My dad accepted Christ as his savior and was baptized a few days before he passed. God ultimately used cancer to heal my dad spiritually. His friend is a great example of someone who is willing to share God's grace with someone who needed it most.

I support the ministry because it's not just helping people "beat" cancer, but encouraging them to let God be their stronghold and lift them up in their weakness. Joe and Terri are truly gifted at reaching others for Christ. I am pleased to stand behind them and Stronghold Ministry.



Mike Davis (L) and Morgan Davis (R)