



# Stronghold Ministry's Monthly Newsletter

## The Exchanger

August 2012

### *Inside this issue:*

#### **Why I Support Stronghold 1**

One of our administrative assistants, **Brittany Hardy**, shares why she loves her job.

#### **Stronghold Prayer Meeting 1**

Join us for impact prayer Tuesday, August 21st in Dallas.

#### **Finding Purpose in the Uncharted 2**

**Jessica A.** tells of finding God's purpose for her life from the stillness of a hospital bed.

#### **Prayer Wall 3**

Please join us in prayer for our patients.



#### **Healing Prayer Meeting**

3rd Tuesdays

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Dallas Bible Church

15765 Hillcrest Road

Dallas, TX 75248

We meet on Tuesday the 21st this month.

Call 214-221-7007.

### *Why I Support (and work for) Stronghold Ministry*

About a year ago, at the ripe age of 30, my friend was diagnosed with Stage III melanoma cancer. I was angry. She has a two year old daughter. I was plagued with the idea that this sweet little girl may not have a mom when she enters the insecurity of the preteen years, the uncertainty of high school, or the butterflies of her first love. With light skin and red hair myself, I wondered if I could stand up to the emotional and physical trauma my friend was going through. Would I be able to see any upside? I felt helpless. What do you do? How do you cope? Why does this happen? For months I wrestled with these questions. I was unaware why the Lord had put this weight so heavily on my heart, but I was not unaware for long.

During the same time, I was looking for a job. I was sitting in the Dallas Theological Seminary library — where I'm working on a master's in Biblical Counseling — when I found the job listing for an admin position with Stronghold Ministry. I googled Stronghold Ministry and read Joe's story. I had tears in my eyes as I read how the Lord provided a true miracle for the Fornear family. For so long I had wondered and searched and cried out to God, wondering if He could do anything good

through the "C" word or if that was just the end of a person's journey - the end of my friend's journey. I emailed Joe and told him I wanted to be part of what he was doing.



What is it that we are doing? Stronghold reminds people that God IS still at work after the "C" word is dropped. It's not the end. God is bringing people close to Him — no matter the outcome. He does not shield His eyes or abandon. He is caring. He is hope. He reminds us of our purpose here: to love Him and His people. This is a purpose that no amount of cancer can take away.

Most of my job for Stronghold Ministry involves logging names and stories into databases and keeping track of what is sent out to patients and donors. However, my real job—why I do what I do and love doing it—is to remind people that God is abundantly present in the midst of cancer. Stronghold Ministry is in the business of reminding people that God's love is an unusually and indescribably firm foundation — with or without the "C" word.



**SAVE THIS DATE:**

**10/7/2012**

### **Stronghold Ministry's Fundraising Banquet**

Find out what God is doing through Stronghold!

Sunday, October 7th @ 6:30 p.m.

The Hope Center, Plano, TX

## Finding Purpose in the Uncharted

-By Jessica A.

The first half of 2011 was a season of change for me. My engagement ended, I left my employer of 12 years for a non-profit organization and my son and I began attending a new church. I was a single mom of a pre-teen, trying to find purpose amidst all of the change. I prayed, "I don't recognize subtle signs very well. You're going to have to spell it out for me. Hit me in the face with it." God answered.

In late May, I woke up with severe back pain. While unable to work, I decided to get a physical. The doctor noted my white blood cell count was a little high and should be rechecked. I began running a low-grade fever so I returned to have my blood rechecked, and I was sent home with antibiotics.

The doctor called a few days later, "Your white cell count is higher and your platelet count has dropped significantly. I need you to get in to see a hematologist - today!" The receptionist assured me that seeing a hematology oncologist did not mean I had cancer. Yet I was later told in the exam room, "You know you're here because we think you have leukemia, right?" No! I thought we were just running tests to rule things out. I was diagnosed with a rare combination of acute leukemia with a 66% survival rate. I asked a nurse, "This is how I'm going to die, isn't it?" Her response was perfect, "Not today."

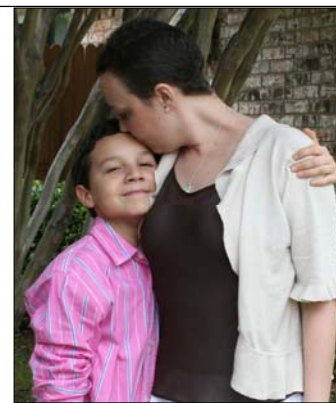
I began a 4-day IV intake of chemo. I was scared; convinced I was going to die. God began speaking to me clearly during my 3-week hospital stay. I realized His purpose was for me to slow down and to seek a closer relationship with Him. I was never mad at Him, nor did I question why this happened to me. I knew why.

I was told my only chance for survival was a bone marrow transplant. So for several months, every 3 weeks I was hospitalized for IV chemo and spinal-puncture chemo. I developed deep relationships with my clergy, the Director of Pastoral Care, the hospital Chaplain and God, Himself. I was convinced I was going to die, until one day when I had an epiphany. The book of James says a man must ask in faith. I had known early on that God could cure me, but did not believe myself to be worthy. That, I realized, was the difference between believing and having faith. From that moment on I was at complete peace. That message hit home again in our cancer support group when the speaker Joe Fornear said, "We are all equal sinners. The ground is level at the foot of the cross."

I received my stem cell transplant in November 2011. My body was broken from the last chemo and radiation treatments. I didn't want to see anyone. But on Thanksgiving, as I lie in my hospital bed, Father Bill from my church walked in. He realized I was feeling badly, so he said a prayer, blessed me and walked out. Tears streamed down my face and I had to thank God for sending him. Even though I thought I didn't want anyone there, God knew better.

When I realized the extent of the army of prayer warriors that rallied to my defense in such a short period of time, I informed my doctors, "My God does not see me as a statistic. All these prayers are going to mess up your numbers." After my first round of chemo I was cancer-free and have been ever since. I recently participated in a discussion group which posed the question, "Does God heal today?" My contribution to the discussion: Without a doubt!

-Jessica A.



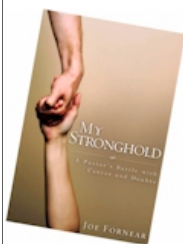
Jessica with son, Ashton

### My Stronghold

Visit our website for more on Joe Fornear's story and book about his cancer battle, *My Stronghold, A Pastor's Battle with Cancer and Doubts*.

[www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html](http://www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html)

If you're a cancer patient or caretaker, we'll send the book at no cost. Simply write and tell us your story.



### In His Grip

Terri and Joe Fornear's devotional with encouraging lessons on their cancer battle, *In His Grip*.

*Meditations with the Great Physician.*

[www.mystronghold.org/In\\_His\\_Grip.html](http://www.mystronghold.org/In_His_Grip.html)

If you're a cancer patient or caretaker, we'll send the book at no cost. Simply write and tell us your story.





# Stronghold Prayer Wall



*Please join us in prayer for these warriors*

Stronghold is reaching out to these individuals who are fighting cancer, or are survivors, and a few have other serious illness. We believe in the centrality of prayer for healing and strength. Will you take a moment to pray?

Mike D	Hudson	Fred	Emily	Harold	Pat	Clayton	Eddie	Casey	Norene	Betty	Ed	Janie
Mr. W	David	Dave	Bob	John	Fran	Jim	Karen	Jeff	Mark	Denise	Jim	Bill
John	Darlene	Mary	Quentin	Joan	Bryan	Nancy	Jobi	Kimberly	Sharon	Pat	Dean	Lynn
Bill	Lynda	Joanne	Donna	George	Charlie	Ben	Dennis	Marty	Max	Kevin	Nicholas	Jackie Hart
Jon N	Yvette	Marilynn	Christian	Dewayne	Lanette	Robin	John	Carmela	Jeannine	Jim	Jerry	Suzanne
Gloria	Sean	Johnny	Kathy	Richard	Bob	Suzanne	David	Jan	James	Luke	David	Alan
Claudia	Frank	Pat	Toni	Nicole	Kevin	Bryan	Harold	Sherri	Macie	Harry	Courtney	Stephanie
Jeff	Larry	Mary	Gloria	Susan	Eric	Mitch	Don	Sandie	Phil	Tom	Lou	Erin
Carolyn	Lori	Charles	Althea	Dennis	Bob	Ann	Diane	Emily	Molly	Corina	Brandi	Marilyn
Laura	Katrina	Bill	Cathy	Pamela	Judy	Gwen	William	Nicole	Leonard	Karen	Jared	Rob
Mary Sue	Gregg	Karen	Grace	Terry Joe	Philip	Serenity	Charlotte	Jeremy	Sharon	Linda	Sharon	Bill
Ed	Ruth	Betty	Pam	Chuck	Harry	Henry	Angelica	Cristy	James	Paula	Jeremy	Ed
Milton	Sam	Mr. H	Sandra	Darcy	Ed	David	Jenny	Michael	Bo	Marcia	Diane	Dave
Sara	Pete	Manuel	Steve	Barbara	Mickey	Tracy	Benjamin	Betty	Rob	Jamie	Todd	Jim
Rex	Gina	Bob	Cathy	Jamie	Cheryl	Bruce	Sherri	Josiah	Treva	Bobby	Eric	Bill
Monette	Duke	Nick	Donna	Jackie	Margaret	John	Charandeep	Rachel	Phil	Blair	Daniel	Janelle
Joan	Don	Bonnie	Bonnie	Sylvia	Lori	Marlene	Glenda	Glen	David	Lucy	Loree	Barbra
Brian	Jack	Misti	Debrah	Brenda	Bob	Ben	Reb	Keith	Jeremy	Betty	Mendie	Diane
Joanne	John	Kristine	Fred	Tina	Susan	Sherri	Brian	Gale	Ruth Ann	Phoebe	Don	Jan
Kathy	Richard	Alfredo	JL	Leonard	Gail	Audrey	Richard	Lynn	Karen	Judy	Paula	Sherry
Sue	Lori	Virginia	Betty	Jodi	Susan	Linda	Melissa	Virginia	Carol	Norman	Cassie	Ronald
Garrett	Sheila	Linda	Will	Johnny	Lin	Peggy	Eric	Janet	Phil	David	DeLese	Tam Nhi
Kathy	Beverly	Vicky	Celine	Itai	Shalundria	Jessica	Jeff	Sandy	Danny	Phyllis	Pat	Nicoleta
Peggy	Darlene	Inez	Donna	Ken	Becky	Isabella	Bill	Jose	Sally	Cynthia	Jan	Brandi
Mr. L	Cheryl	Kate	Phil	Chris	Danny	Elaine	Jane	Allie	Carl	Dawn	Carol	Robert
Becky	Karon	Sara	Fred	Tommy	Simone	Joanie	Woody	Elaine	Deborah	Susan	Ann	Ernesto
Frank	Jacob	Ethan	Anna	Danny	Angela	Liz	Kim	Robin	Denny Gay	Dean	Lesia	Angi
Randy	Rebecca	Myrna	Ava	Mimi	Fern	Susan	Charles	Pat	Jacque	Greg	Katherine	Pat
Sue	Susan	Don	Evelyn	Joe	Charles	Mary	Betty	Laura	Eloisa	Ruth	Ronald	Tim
Mr. S	Ms. M	Will	Dave	Jimmy	Randy	Dick	Patsy	Larry	Andrea	Brock	Selvaraj	Kim
Mrs. L	Bill	Ric	Bill	Heidi	Tom	Diana	Nick	Stephanie	Mark	Jill	Gina	Madelynn
Priscilla	Sharon	Randy	Lawrence	Carol	Kevin	Lacey	Brendon	Elaine	Tricia	Michael	Mary	Gwen
Stephanie	Luke	Carlos	Kathy	Michael	Seth	Adrian	Sonja	Yolanda	Charlotte	Gigi	Cheryl	Lura
Lynne	Nancy	Mike	Sheryl Sue	Debbie	Nina	Daniel	Cecilia	Sarah	Kim	Faye	Annette	Donna
Bubba	Holly	Tina	Gipsy	Beth	Rosa	Angela	Renita	Mary Dell	Susan	Ida	John	Theresa
Althea	Diane	Trista	Jo	Brenda	Kevin	Karen	Michelle	Nancy	Lisa	Marilyn	Michael	Bill
Robbin	Allison	Timi	Gino	Julie	Mickey	Robert	Linda	Bobbie	Priscilla	Lorraine	Mike	Erica
Correy	Randy	Jordan	Becky	Cheryl	Nikki	Paula	Pam	Lucy	Alice	Quentin	Janie	Donna
Angela	Nelia	Scott	Kellison	Sara	Carletta	Cole	Ruth	Cheree	George	Judy	Bill	Rick
Maryann	Rick	Maria	Linda	Terri	Molly	Claudese	Briana	Jay	Dawn	Juan	Meranda	Ranaud
Bill	Linda	Jack	Joyce	Lilly	Leslie	Mary	Christiana	Larry	Sarah	Ernest	Ava	Jessica
Tina	Akadrianna	Naomi	Molly	George	Michel	Marci	Corinne	Rosella	Joy	Dawn	Ronald	Jay
Edward	Janet	Matthew	Dee Ann	Martha	Sheila	Christi	Pege	Bob	Ray	Luke	Stanley	Laurence
Dianne	Julie	Lori	John	Susan	John	John	Darlene L.	Samantha	Ruth	Steve	Aaron	Roberta
Vicky	Delora	Kristen	Maura	Rita	Stephen	Jim	David	Anne	Stephanie	Phil	Richard	Todd
Stephanie	Kathy	John	Leon	Peter	Cindy	Mark	Mrs. R	Joe	Kelby	Cheryl	Fritz	Anthony
Judy	Sherry	Leonard	Ann	Kay	Martha	Sarah	Jennifer	Maurice	Mary C.	Tom	Chris	Patsy
Terri	Matt	Penny	Cynthia	Junie	Robert	Steve	David	Carmen	Twila	Mike	George	Leo
Megan	Mike	Betty	Dallas	Bob	Florence	Ron	Agit	Trisha	Robert	Lori	Donna	Collin
Ruth	Mildred	Lisa	Wayne	Carolyn	Diana	Lenna	Gene	Brandon	Brad	Brian	Keith	Guy
Hank	Anne	Mechas	Kathy	Helga	Sam	Amy	Jim	Jamie	Raymond	Tim	Jim	Wes
Tony	Fred	Phyllis	Taylor	Jim	Jeff	Sandra	Saundra	Darlene	Linda	Mary	Marge	Pedro
Melody	Kaye	Keith	Mark	Mark	Mike	Patricia	Chris	Deb	Cheryl	Bud	Joe	Claire
Susan	Lois	Hal	Jon	Lana	Will	Charles	Charlotte	Ria	Bill	Rob	Brenda	Linda
Joseph	Gracie	Frank	Clark	Sheryl	Susan	Janet	Debbie	Lorinda	Ravi	Bill	Richard	Kathy
Michael	Tom	Evelyn	Don	Barbara	Joe	Grace	Margaret	Carolyn	Julie	Dan	Jackie	Anne Marie
Robert	Johnnie	Mary	Joe	James	Mark	Ester	Rockie	Roderick	Karen	Steve	Frances	Donna
Mike	Linda	Tina	Sheryl	Gail	Gayle	Dina	Maxine	Sue	Sharon	Tom	Tracy	Trudy
Debra	Maurice	Rachel	Kenedy	Peggy	Elizabeth	Chris	Kate	Mary	Angelica	Ed	Linda	Donny
Michael S.	Gary	Steve	Amy	Bunny	Tommy	Rick	Kathleen	Jeff	Gina	Susan	Robert	Amy Sue
Debbie	Pat	Kim	Cindy	Beverly	David	Gino	Jeffrey	Dale	Kelly	Jan	Joel	Andy
Barb	Dylan	Carol	Pearl	Brenda	John	Dave	Ilaria	Billie	Chuck	Michelle	Ampara	Erin
Kent	Carolyn	Rob	Dale	Laura	Peck	Andrea	Brian	Jim	Stacy	Gillian	Sandy	Manuel
Ted	Rusty	Andre	Phil	Deborah	Tim	Wendell	Ken	Ray	Clyde	Cheryl	Jillian	Bruce
Andy	Cindy	John David	William	David	JoAnne	George	Dave	Eva	Randi	Marianne	Brandi	Beverly
Steve	Brian	Linda	Bill	Larry	Glenzine	Lynn	Kelly	Jessica	Steve	Tammy	Kimberly	Candice
Lois	Sherri	Dorcas	Meg	Julie	Wendy	Michael	Justin	Joe	Micki	Mr. L	Butch	Jim
Karen	Darcelle	Ivan	Tim	Helga	Lucretia	Sally	Hollie	Michael	James	Art	Donald	Stacie
Jodie	Jennifer	Nancy	Michael	Lisa	Sherri	Tommy	David	Robert	Janet	Peggy	Kim	James
Susan	Agnes	Jessica	Vicky	Adrienne	Karen	Robert	Linda	Andrea	Kelly	Bill	Joe	Julie

We try to maintain a balance of privacy and personalization. If your name or a loved one's name appears here and you do not wish to be listed for any reason, please write and we will remove - [jfor@mystronghold.org](mailto:jfor@mystronghold.org).