



Stronghold Ministry's The Exchanger

October 2009

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God has once for all proven He loves us. Grab on to this fact during your crisis. **1**

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-Lynda Beutnagel
Being a three time survivor of breast cancer has uniquely prepared this survivor to help others.

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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

***October 27** - Joe and Terri Fornear speak at Bethel Baptist Church in Dallas.

***November 7th** - Stronghold Ministry Banquet in Dallas for Fundraiser /Awareness.

***November 14th** - Joe speaks at Exchanged Life Ministry Seminar at the brand new Hope Center in Dallas.

Call or write for more info

Can You Hear Him Now?

During times of crisis, a burning question camps in many minds. The question may briefly slip to a subconscious level, but when waves of emotional or physical pain increase, the throbbing tension returns. "Lord, if You really love me, why don't You remove my pain now?" Some ask the question innocently and honestly, willing to "listen" to God's response. Others conclude that He is flat unfair. Some don't know what to think, so they suppress the question. Of course, some of His ways will not be grasped until eternity. In the meantime, there have been countless attempts to resolve the issue. God has left us, however, with one clear response regarding the scope of His love. You see, anyone can declare their love, but God has demonstrated His love for us - once and for all. During my great crisis, this biblical fact helped sustain me in the midst of my confusion:

"For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7-9).

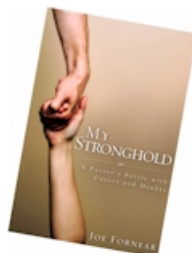
Anyone can declare their love,
but He has demonstrated His love,
once and for all.

Did you catch that Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners? He made the ultimate sacrifice to prove His unconditional love for us, even though we had only proven to be His enemies. This fact can provide a firm foundation when we are shaken by events. Then hope and peace prevail as we rest in His arms of love. Though you may not feel it now, He has proven His love for you. He loves you more than you can comprehend! The next time you wonder about His love, "listen" to the ultimate expression of love - His sacrifice for the forgiveness for your sin. Yep, He really loves you.

If you have cancer, or if you are a caretaker, please write and tell us your story and prayer requests. We want to help remind you of God's love!

-Joe Fornear

Stronghold Ministry Banquet on Saturday, November 7th at Embassy Suites Hotel in Dallas, 6-9 p.m. This will be a fundraiser and provide awareness of Stronghold Ministry's progress and vision. Please write or call if you did not receive an invitation. We want you to come!



Read more about how Joe Fornear coped during his battle with Stage IV metastatic melanoma.

Visit our website page for his book, My Stronghold:
<http://www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html>

Testimony Time

We are featuring the stories of warriors and caretakers we serve. This month, we share the journey of Lynda Beutnagel. She is a three time survivor of breast cancer. She is taking classes now at Dallas Seminary and she is now helping Stronghold Ministry reach and encourage those who are dealing with breast cancer.

“Cancer is such a blessing,” my friend said as we left my first support group. I had just finished 6 rounds of chemo to treat breast cancer a couple of weeks before, and I could not see how I could possibly consider cancer a blessing. In fact, her comment made me down right angry.



I was saved by the loving grace of God at the age of 10, but my faith was tenuous. Did God really love me? Am I really His child forever? As the days of chemo trudged on, I learned something. God was with me every step of the way. He really does love me and He's not going anywhere! I remember one particular night when I had absolutely no faith at all and all I could do was just be sick, yet God got me through. Sometimes, all I could do was pray, and sometimes I couldn't even pray. It was then that Psalm 57:1 became my mantra. "I will hide under the shadow of His wings until the disaster is past." What an incredible hope this verse gave me.

Life returned to normal following radiation, but it was actually better than normal. I was still a stay-home mom, but the daily routines became a blessing! I was so grateful to be alive. My oldest daughter graduated from high school and was in her third year of college. Then breast cancer hit again in my other breast. It was caught early in a mammogram, and so a lumpectomy and radiation was all I needed to have done. God used this situation again to get my attention. I was hit with the reality that my death is indeed coming. Not today, probably not tomorrow, but life is a vapor and eternity is just a blink away. Jesus became up-front and personal. I became even more deeply aware of His love and presence. I was tested for the breast cancer gene, and being found negative as a carrier, opted to let the lumpectomy be my only surgery. Besides, I had only an 8% chance of having another primary cancer, so this seemed to be my best decision.

8% means 8 people out of 100 will have cancer. I was one of those 8, for my third diagnosis of breast cancer. But it was a blessing! God does indeed work everything out for good. I have had numerous opportunities to tell others of God's love and goodness, and that life is short and eternity is forever. God sent His Son to die for our sins so that we can have life in Him! I have seen that eternity is what matters and what a blessed privilege it is to walk beside others as they go through their journey. And, I have a new appreciation of the verse, "This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it!"

I am so excited about working with "Stronghold Ministry!" God is doing an awesome work in Terri and Joe Fornear and I look forward to sharing with others about the grace and mercy God has shown to me.

-Lynda Beutnagel

You can reach Lynda at lrbeut@gmail.com.

Stronghold Prayer Wall

Please join us in prayer for these warriors

As Stronghold reaches out to these individuals who are fighting cancer (some listed have no evidence of cancer and a few have other serious illnesses), we don't want to neglect the centrality of prayer for healing and continued 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.

Betty	Brian	David	Joseph	Darlene
Mike D	Joanne	Angela	Emily	Lynda
Brisy	Kathy	Maryann	Michael	Yvette
Bekah	Sue	Bill	Robert	Sean
Mike P	Dave	Tina	Mike	Frank
Donna	Garrett	Edward	Debra	Larry
Janice	Kathy	Dianne	Michael S.	Lori
Mr. W	Peggy	Michelle	Debbie	Katrina
John	Mr. L	Vicky	Barb	Gregg
Bill	Becky	Beth	Kent	Ruth
Jon N	Frank	Tiffany	Ted	Sam
Rich	Randy	Rachel	Andy	Pete
Gloria	Sue	Stephanie	Diann	Gina
Claudia	Mr. S	Judy	Steve	Duke
Jeff	Susan	Terri	Lois	Don
Carolyn	Mrs. L	Megan	Chuck	Jack
Laura	Priscilla	Ruth	Karen	John
Mary Sue	Stephanie	Hank	Pat	Richard
Ed	Lynne	Vivian	Jodie	Lori
Milton	Althea	Tony	Matt	Sheila
Sara	Kevin	Melody	Susan	
Rex	Robbin	Phyllis	Hudson	
Monette	Amy	Michael	Craig	
Joan	Correy	Susan	David	

