



Stronghold Ministry's The Exchanger

September 2009

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Joe's story on his battle with cancer is now in print. The book is not a tribute to beating cancer but a declaration that God must often carry us through our crises.

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-Dr. Garrett Maxwell

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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

- **Cancer Support Group**
in Dallas. Thursdays
@ 7 p.m. Call for location
- 214-221-7007.



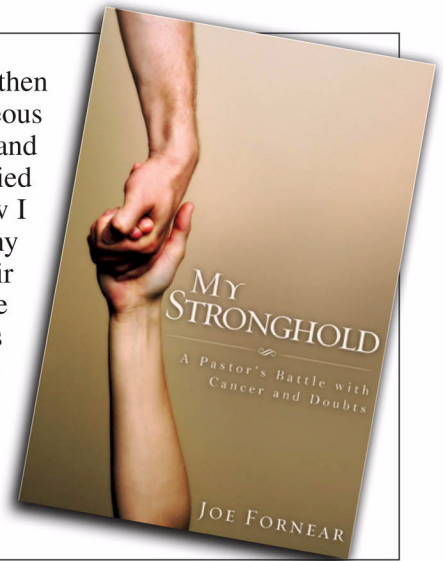
I Didn't Beat Cancer

-Joe Fornear

You have heard of a tell-all book. Well, mine is more of a tell-on-yourself book. As this excerpt below suggests, I am humbled and yet relieved to admit that I was no match for Stage IV metastatic melanoma.

If great life crises reveal a person's true colors, then color me gray. My story is not about a courageous escape from the claws of cancer, but a search and rescue operation where the POW is literally carried out of the enemy camp. Why make much of how I handled the cancer? Because I have seen too many cancer patients beat themselves up over their inability to cope. Over time, I learned to embrace this big picture truth: The cancer experience was not about my strong grip on life, but of God's strong hold on me.

— excerpt from *My Stronghold, A Pastor's Battle With Cancer and Doubts*



My primary goal in writing was to identify with those who are fighting cancer and lighten their load. I want to be "in their corner" and let them know they are not alone. I firmly believe in a positive attitude to fight cancer. Yet when a person is ingesting chemo drugs that purposefully cause sickness, it is hard to be upbeat. Pretending to be positive with others can be a straight jacket. A person may quickly find themselves in a solo fight against depression because there are unwritten "rules" about voicing the negative. Some secretly beat themselves up because they are not handling their battle well. I know I did. We were not designed to handle the stress and fatigue of cancer or any crisis on our own. In fact, we need huge portions of God's coping power just for everyday living! So how much more do we need Him in crisis? The first step is to admit we can't handle our life on our own. So let me say loud and clear, I did not beat cancer. God beat it. The Lord revealed my weakness so He could provide His strength. He delights in revealing Himself to us and through us.

If you have cancer, or if you are a caretaker, please write and tell us your story and prayer requests, and we will send a complimentary copy of the book.

*The book is available on our website at www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html.

*For a minimum donation of \$25 to Stronghold Ministry on our donation page at www.mystronghold.org/Donate.html, we will send you a complimentary copy. (Cost of book + shipping subtracted from total donation for tax deductible amount).

Testimony Time

We are featuring the stories of warriors and caretakers we serve. This month, we share the journey of Garrett W. Maxwell, MD. He also offers a tip on making donations to charitable causes.

It is an understatement to say that Dr. Garrett Maxwell is a survivor! Almost 20 years ago in 1990, he was diagnosed with renal cell (kidney) cancer and he had a kidney removed (Radical Left Nephrectomy). In 2007, the cancer metastasized or spread to his brain and left lung. These lesions were removed through surgery. In 2009, there were recurring brain lesions. Those were successfully treated with a Novalis shaped beam radiation machine. He is currently NED (No Evidence of Disease). We praise God with him and his family, especially his son, Stewart, who is a member of the board of directors of Stronghold Ministry. Dr. Maxwell is a leader and catalyst in the Kairos Program at the Hutchins State Jail in Texas. This is a ministry to the “brothers in white” in the Texas prison system.



Dr. Garrett Maxwell (L) with his son, Stewart

Stronghold Ministry has had the privilege to serve Dr. Maxwell and many others in their fight against cancer. Though we do not seek, and we definitely do not expect, any support from those we reach, Dr. Maxwell has helped support Stronghold. He wrote to us because he wished to share with others about a method of charitable giving directly from one's IRA.

“For us older folks (over 70 1/2) who can take advantage of IRA provision, it gives great joy to see the fruits of our labors used in faith-based programs, especially for cancer inflicted persons when spiritual health and strength is most important in overcoming physical ailment/weakness. This is why I wanted to present this subject in this Stronghold Newsletter.

Included in the Emergency Stabilization Act of 2008 is the IRA Charitable Rollover reenactment which permits taxpayers at age of 70 1/2 and older to make tax-free charitable gifts totaling up to \$100,000 per year from traditional and Roth IRAs in 2008 and 2009. I used this IRA transfer mechanism to help fund several ministries in 2008 and 2009. It worked very smoothly for me. Since it was a short-term provision for 2006-2007 that was renewed for 2008 and 2009, there was no line on the IRS 1040 Form to take advantage of this provision. Your tax accountant, financial adviser, or IRA fund custodian uses special forms for this direct transfer to the designated 501c3 nonprofit organization. It may be wise to make this transfer before December 31, 2009, because of the possibility that this Rollover Provision may not be reenacted for 2010 and beyond. Please check with your accountant or adviser before making any decisions based on this information.”

-Dr. Garrett Maxwell



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

