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<p>Theme: Our stories</p>	<p>Date: 17 May 2013</p>
<p>Scripture: They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.</p> <p>Rev 12.11.</p> 	<p>Comment: Let's face it: on the surface of things, Angelina Jolie is beautiful. That's how most of us have known and judged her... Angelina, the beautiful actress. Of course, she's so much more than that. In fact, her acting roles in recent times have traded less heavily on her looks, and she's worked passionately as a UN goodwill ambassador for many years. But still: it was a deeply brave thing, personally and professionally, for her to announce the news this week of her preventive double mastectomy.</p> <p>'I choose not to keep my story private,' she wrote in her New York Times article, 'because there are many women who do not know that they might be living under the shadow of cancer. It is my hope that they, too, will be able to get gene tested, and that... they will know that they have strong options.' In so doing, she becomes an icon of something rather different from the usual shimmering superficial superstardom.</p> <p>The Japanese have an ancient craft known as kintsugi. If a piece of valuable china such as a vase or bowl was dropped, then instead of throwing it away, or repairing it perfectly, the kintsugi craftspeople would use lacquer containing gold to piece it back together. And so, while the original work was made whole again, its scars and cracks were kept, celebrated, honoured, in golden seams. And the restored item was considered far more beautiful than the original – because of its brokenness.</p> <p>We all have stories of brokenness and restoration. Our stories that reveal the work of God in our lives have power and they glorify God and help others. But only if others hear them.</p> <p>What stories have you got to tell? Are you telling them?</p>
<p>Prayer (as a couple): Dear Father, help the two of us to know and tell of your work in our lives. Give us boldness and opportunities to share our stories. For we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.</p>	<p>Prayer (for others): Dear Lord we pray for and and for other couples in our community. May you give them opportunities and a spirit of boldness to share the stories of what you have done in their lives. Amen.</p>
<p>This eprayer is inspired by and based on the LICC email of today, authored by Brian Draper. For more on LICC go to www.licc.org.uk. For the email go to http://tinyurl.com/d9lumfh</p>	

Remember others will also be praying in this way this week. Together and with God we can make a difference.

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