

ENCOURAGING FIREFIGHTERS TO LIVE THEIR LIVES FOR JESUS CHRIST!

FIREFIIGHTERS FOR *Christ*

SPRING/SUMMER 2008



IN THEATRES FALL 2008

Firefighters For Christ's primary mission is to encourage firefighters to live their lives for Jesus Christ. This is why Firefighters For Christ is taking every opportunity to promote FIREPROOF, a new movie due out this fall from Sherwood Pictures.

God holds marriage in high esteem, so much so that it is often used in Scripture as a metaphor for the intimate relationship between Jesus Christ and His church. (Revelation 19:7) We are instructed to love our wives as "Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her." (Ephesians 5:25)

Unfortunately, divorce rates in the church mirror those of society. Couples in the fire service need to realize the uniqueness of the challenges they face and thoughtfully consider how to 'fireproof' their marriages. This feature film will help them do just that.

FIREPROOF is the story of Lt. Caleb Holt, who lives by the familiar firefighter's adage: *never leave your partner behind*. Inside burning buildings, it's his natural instinct. In the cooling embers of his marriage, it's another story.



Lt. to rt.: Mike Anson, Joe Battaglia, Kirk Cameron, Jerry Sillocks, and John White had a great time on the set of FIREPROOF. Kirk plays the part of Lt. Caleb Holt and Joe is President of Renaissance Communications, which is one of the strategic partners involved in the national promotion of the movie. Check out the official website of FIREPROOF: www.fireproofthemovie.com.

After seven years of marriage, Caleb and Catherine Holt have drifted so far apart that they are ready to move on without each other. As they prepare to enter divorce proceedings, Caleb's

dad asks his son to try an experiment: *The Love Dare*. Wondering if it's even worth the effort, Caleb commits to it, more for his father's sake than his marriage. When he discovers the book's daily challenges are tied into his parent's newfound faith, Caleb's already sparse enthusiasm is further dampened.

Even while Caleb is trying to stay true to his promise, he discovers that Catherine has become infatuated by the attention of a doctor. Completely frustrated, he asks his father, "How am I supposed to show love to somebody who constantly rejects me?"

Caleb's father helps him to understand that unconditional love is the kind of love that God shows to us. With this realization, Caleb makes a life-changing commitment to love God and—with God's help—

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FIREPROOF

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truly love his wife. But is it too late to fireproof his marriage? His job is to rescue others. Now Caleb Holt is ready to face his toughest job ever ... rescuing his wife's heart!

"MARRIAGE IS TO BE HELD IN HONOR AMONG ALL ..."

Hebrews 13:4a

"I am convinced that this is going to be a life-changing movie. The scenes are powerful," says John White, President of Firefighters For Christ, International. He and FDNY FFC members, Mike Anson and Jerry Sillocks, spent two days on the set of FIREPROOF this fall. They saw first-hand the hearts of the people making the movie. John said, "I've never seen a group of servants with such diverse talents and gifts working in unity to accomplish what God has called them to do."

The moviemaking ministry of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia continues touching the world with hope-filled stories of how God can work in our lives and that with Him, all things are possible. This inspiring film will have audiences laughing and crying—and sitting on the edges of their seats—as they are drawn into the world of a firefighter, his wife ... and a marriage worth rescuing! 🚒

Love Runs Deep from Centro De Vida

By Mike Lindbery, Ventura, CA FFC Chapter

The Lord truly blessed our outreach in Mazatlan, Mexico. Seven of us from the Ventura County FD and our families got to minister alongside Pastor Javier Diaz. He has an incredible heart and is gifted with an enormous amount of needed energy. The church he pastors is small but their love runs very deep into the neighborhoods and beaches of their city.

Our ministry began by taking children from a Salvation Army orphanage to a park for lunch. The kids were great and you could see them enjoying their time with the team. After lunch, we washed off graffiti and cleaned up the church. They meet on the second floor of a commercial building in an area no bigger than the engine bay at a small station.

The next day we took the orphan kids to the beach and had a great time teaching them

to surf. Together we built sandcastles, threw Frisbees, kicked footballs and ate coconuts. In the evening we headed up to the Church on the Hill, which is an outreach in a poor neighborhood overlooking Mazatlan. This church started out with mostly neighborhood children but now many of their parents are coming. We did some clowning ministry and passed out Samaritan's Purse presents to the kids. Our piñatas were a big hit!

On Monday we were taken to a place of

heart wrenching poverty — a plot of land adjacent to Mazatlan's dump. People living here subsist on money they make by finding recyclable items from garbage. We held children, washed and cut hair, gave tetanus shots and handed out sandwiches and Gatorade. All the girls had some degree of lice, all the kids were covered with dirt, and some were listless. We wondered what type of parasite might be consuming the little nutrition they take in.

Finally we walked out to the trash, where the people were sifting through debris, some barefoot, some without gloves. We passed out gloves and shoes. Some gave the shirts off their backs or the shoes they were wearing. Each one of us was moved.

The Lord showed me that these people are equivalent to India's untouchables. They have been left alone without an advocate, without value in the eyes of society. Nevertheless, our God values them and is reaching out to them through people like Javier Diaz. His heart is huge and his love for this city and the love of his church runs deep into an area that many in Mazatlan would avoid. 🚒



◀ Ventura's construction guys put a new roof on Grandmother Bonita's house. Her daughter died of cancer two years ago and now she cares for her five grandchildren.



AS PASTOR JAVIER SAT ON A WINDOWSILL OF THE NOW GRAFFITI LADEN BUILDING, HE EXPLAINED HIS VISION FOR THIS CHURCH ON THE HILL. The goal of his heart is to build a sanctuary and a sun shelter so the children can be fed breakfast before school. Most importantly, he wants to feed them God's powerful Word. It was the only time that we saw him appear sullen. Construction on the church has started but funds have run out. He opened up and said that at times he feels frustrated that things don't move faster, but then God reminds him that His timing is perfect.

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► Some churches bring the people food but they won't get out of their vehicle to deliver it. "These people need to be loved and held," said Javier. He does just that!



FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.centrodevida.com.mx


Mission Possible **Mission Complete**

Once again the Lord brought Irish and USA firefighters together to minister to their brothers and sisters in the Fire Service. A week before FFC's International Weekend, the Irish team landed at LAX and journeyed to Fresno, California to accomplish Mission Possible '08.

“WOW,” is how one Fresno firefighter described what Mission Possible '08 meant to him. “I was truly overwhelmed by the faith of our Irish brothers. It was awesome; there was no way possible for their faith in God not to rub off onto others. I know because it had a huge impact on me. It was truly a memory I will never forget! The experience has spiritually energized me in a way I have not felt before. My wife and I have committed ourselves to a church. I am ashamed to admit it, but I just purchased a Bible for the first time

in my life; actually I bought two Bibles, one for myself and one for my wife. I feel encouraged now to explore my own faith more deeply. I enjoyed the time spent with our guests and our brothers from home. All you guys are awesome! Thank you so much for the support.”

Craig Neill from Northern Ireland wrote similar words as he related what the Lord did in his life through Mission Possible 07, which brought USA Firefighters For Christ members to his country last spring. “At this time my own spiritual life was spiraling into a wilder-

ness. I was lost. God reached out to me through the Mission. At the first evening meeting, I was challenged and rescued. The rest of the Mission continued to have an enormous impact not only on me, but also on my family. When the Mission Force returned home, I was left with a reignited passion for God and His work. When plans were put in place for a return Mission to Fresno by firefighters from Northern Ireland, I had a burning desire to be part of that Mission Force.” 



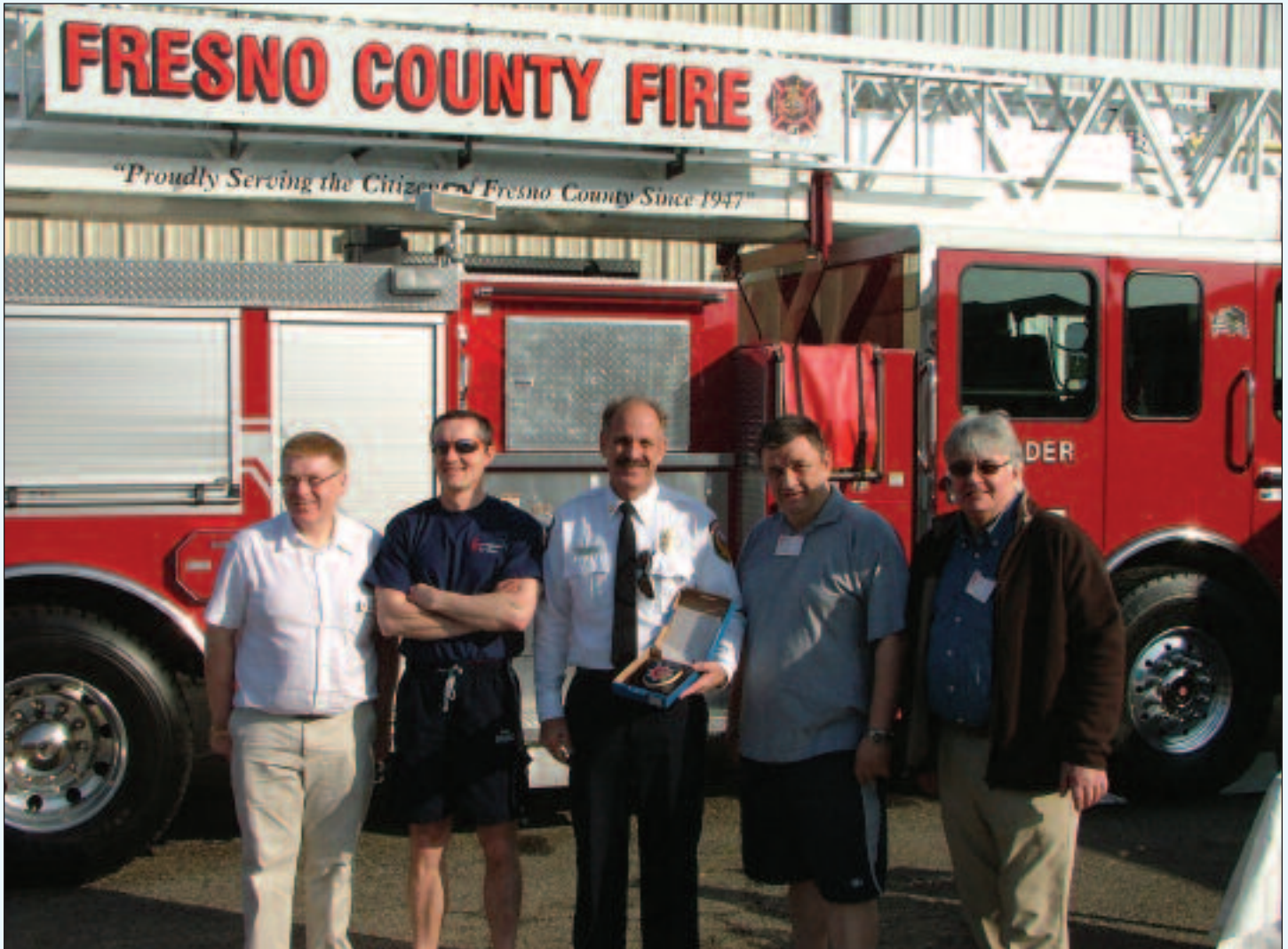
► Firefighters from Fresno Fire, Clovis Fire and Fresno County Fire were great hosts to FFC's visiting team. Hanging out and talking with the crews during the many stations visits was an important part of MP '08. Pictured left to right at Fresno Fire Station 13 is Josh Henderson, Mark Foster, and Miles Talmage.

◀ **Lt. to rt.:** Irish Firefighters — Mark Foster and Craig Neill are FFC members from Northern Ireland. “Mission Possible '08 was a great success,” said Craig. “I witnessed the Lord work through the Mission to plant seeds, challenge individuals and save souls. Our God is a great God and can accomplish anything. We need only to bow our heads and ask.”



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▼ At FCFPD Station 87, the team, including Ken Dyer pictured on the right, were able to share the goals of MP '08 with Chief Larkin. Assemblyman Juan Arambula was also present, as they had just finished a media event promoting smoke detectors. The Irish firefighters had some good information for the guys from Fresno County based on their experience back home in the NIFRS.



Firefighter Specialist Jay Tracy sat in the driver's seat of Fresno Fire's new ARFF apparatus, during a station visit to Fresno Yosemite International Airport and Fresno Fire Station 10. He was also God's lead man for Mission '08. Jay said, "The FFC Fresno Team committed to prayer and fasting ten days prior to the Irish Team's arrival. This is something I had never done and was concerned about my 'To Do' list. Needless to say, the best thing I could have done was to spend the day praying. During this time, God reassured me that He had everything under control. And He did. God is great! His kingdom was advanced by His Spirit working through many of Fresno's finest." ▼

◀ Police and Fire Chaplain, Gerald Titmus "shows off" his strength at a Fresno Fire Station. Gerald's testimony was well received by those who attended a Public Safety Night outreach event, sponsored by Fresno Firefighters For Christ.



Men of God

A highlight for many men who attended FFC's International Weekend was their time with Pete McKenzie on Friday morning. Jeff Wilcox, from Branson, Missouri said, "It was actually life changing for me."

Pete's challenge was powerful. "You men are front line men," he exhorted. "God has called you to be His men for such a time as this. Our nation is in trouble, our families are struggling, and the church is losing its influence. In days like this, God expects His men to be the *dependable ones*. You must know that you are a *Man of God*, if you are ever to become a mature godly man."

"There's a problem," shared Pete. "Most Christian men feel unworthy to wear the mantle, *Man of God*. They feel a *Man of God* means perfection or that he has arrived spiritually. They suffer a lot of guilt and shame because their life is such a struggle."

Pete said, "A *Man of God* is a man who has given his heart to Jesus Christ as Lord. He foundationally loves Christ and is fundamentally loyal to Him. He is committed to a lifelong process of growing in grace, as he allows God to make him a *Man of God*."

"Becoming a *Man of God* starts with your identity in Christ, not in



One by one Pete spoke to each man. He looked into their eyes and said, "**Man of God!**" Each man responded confidently, "**Absolutely!**"

yourself," Pete continued. "If you are confused about who you are as a Christian man, it's doubtful that you will ever become one of God's *dependable ones*." Pete's final charge — "**You are a Man of God! Go out there and give 'em heaven!**" 🚒

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God's Divine Appointments

FFC's International office received several e-mails shortly after the 2008 Breakfast in Irvine, CA. It seems God used the weekend and many of the people who attended to touch lives all over the world in unique ways only He could do.

Carl Ens from British Columbia, Canada and Chuck Hermann from Rochester, Minnesota, who met for the first time at the 2008 FFC's International Weekend in Southern California, had remarkably similar experiences on their flights home. There are no coincidences when God is orchestrating the events.

Carl and his wife, Julie, got the last two seats on stand-by. They ended up sitting in the very back of the plane by a lady, whose Dad is a retired fire chief. She shared how he is a hard, crusty guy, who doesn't want to hear about God and even got upset when she said, "God bless you." She had been praying for God



to break through his hard shell. Carl told her about his 82-year-old neighbor who was just like her Dad, but in his last days received Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior. He told her of the power of God's Word and gave her the one Bible he had packed in his backpack. Carl also gave her a "WHY" pamphlet by Greg Laurie, an FFC CD and his FFC business card. She was so excited because she felt her Dad would read the firefighter testimonies in the "Answering The Call" New Testament. Carl encouraged her to pray and promised he would ask firefighters around the world to pray for her Dad's salvation, which he did as soon as he got home.

Chuck Hermann's e-mail read, "The same type of thing happened to us at LAX. My wife, Pam, and I were making small talk with people at the airport. This couple asked what we were

“Becoming a Man of God starts with your identity in Christ, not in yourself,” Pete continued. “If you are confused about who you are as a Christian man, it’s doubtful that you will ever become one of God’s dependable ones.”



*These firefighters are just a few of the men that received a wristband from Pete inscribed **Man of God**.*



*“I will wear the **Man of God** band Pete placed on my wrist the rest of my life and then pass it on to my son,” said one man, not pictured here. “When fellow firefighters ask me if I’m a **Man of God**, I will say, ‘Absolutely!’ I know that wearing this band comes with a price but thanks be to God, Jesus has already paid the ultimate price for me.”*

“Our nation is in trouble, our families are struggling, and the church is losing its influence. In days like this, God expects His men to be the dependable ones. You must know that you are a Man of God, if you are ever to become a mature godly man.”

doing in LA and I told them about Firefighters For Christ. They were so jazzed! The man said they were praying for a relative who is a retired fire chief.” Incredibly, it turned out that Chuck had worked with the man in Rochester! Chuck assured them that he also had been praying for his salvation. “God is amazing,” said Chuck. “It’s a small world when you know the Lord.” Chuck asks for prayer for this man and his wife “to know the saving grace of our loving God.”

After the International Breakfast, Rochelle Maurer, from Fullerton, CA, was at the hair salon wearing her FFC shirt when the following story occurred. “A woman named Pamela asked me what my shirt meant. As I shared about the ministry, she became very excited and wanted to donate money to FFC. During our hour long conversation, she explained that nine months

ago, while walking along a bike path, she was hit by a bicyclist going about 40 miles an hour. She was in a coma and almost died. She’s had to learn to walk, talk, read and write all over again. She attributes her recovery to the Lord

“The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives.”

Psalm 37:23

and to the firefighters He sent to help her. I’m planning on sending her FFC’s CD by David Gibbs, *God Is Attracted To Weakness*. I’ve listened to this message eight times. I believe it will be a great encouragement to Pamela.”



Women of God

The Lord provided the ladies with wonderful fellowship during FFC’s International Weekend. During the Ladies Brunch, Morwen Dyer from England shared her testimony of God’s faithfulness in the lives of her family. Jennifer White from San Diego said, “We were able to share our hearts and pray for each other over life’s circumstances. It was as if the very essence of Christ was released through us in that we all experienced in some way the depth of God’s abiding love and faithfulness.”

Hungering for a ‘dog’ with all the trimmings, Jon Brown and his wife Karen stopped at Pacific Coast Hotdogs in Huntington Beach on the Friday afternoon before FFC’s Breakfast. Kathleen Hollingsworth was craving French fries and stopped at the same eatery. Strangers ‘til then, Kathleen and Jon waited in line for their order passively watching a large TV screen showing the aftermath of a hotel fire in Las Vegas. Kathleen commented on the fire and as a retired fire captain, Jon gave his “expert” opinions. This led to a conversation about the Fire Service and Kathleen’s involvement getting federal funding for local firefighters. Jon told her that he had just driven some Irish firefighters from Fresno to Irvine for FFC’s International Weekend. Being a Christian from Dublin,

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God's Divine Appointment

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Ireland, Kathleen was delighted and asked for FFC's web site so she could gather more information. They parted saying, "Good day and God Bless!" Just another coincidence? Not so much!

The following morning at FFC's breakfast, Jon told his friends about meeting Kathleen. Shortly thereafter, Kathleen Hollingsworth, District Director to Congressman Dana Rohrabacher of Huntington Beach, CA was introduced. She came to the podium and explained how the day before she had gone to Pacific Coast Hotdogs to quell her hunger and met a fireman from Fresno, who told her about FFC. She didn't remember his name so she labeled him Captain Fresno. After reading the FFC website and discovering what God had

been doing through firefighters, she told her Christian boss what she had learned. He asked her to recognize FFC by presenting them a Congressional Proclamation and a US flag that had been flown over the White House. After the presentation, Karen and Jon went up to their new friend, gave her a hug and Jon's real name, and thanked her for her thoughtful gift.

Accidents don't happen in God's Kingdom. Every encounter is a potential divine appointment as God uses his people to introduce Jesus to those who have never met him and to encourage others who have. Acts 1:8 reads, "When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."—even at an airport, a hair salon or a hot dog stand! 🍔

"To the ends of the earth!"

I just returned from a mission's trip to the city of Azua in the Dominican Republic with Mike Silva Evangelism International. Right after our International Breakfast, the Tape Ministry folks sent us 100 Luis Palau's CD's. We were able to put them directly in the hands of the firefighters in the Azua Fire Department. There we witnessed their deep spiritual and operational needs.

Their station resides in a dense, congested, highly combustible city of 120,000 people. They serve this area with only four antiquated fire apparatus, six career staff and twenty volunteers. They do all risk-response and have very little PPE and no mutual aid. Therefore, I am working to acquire a donated fire apparatus from either Cal Fire or OES to ship to the island. Thankfully, a Christian businessman, who is supportive of Mike Silva International, and owns

an international transport company, has volunteered to ship the fire engine to the island.

At the Festival on Friday and Saturday nights, we were able to give the same CD's to many of the policia who were working these events. We had over 75,000 attend both nights. Mike gave the gospel and many came to Christ.

John Bruno, Cal Fire

P.S.

Robert Hill, from Phoenix, AZ, picked up quite a few FFC CD's after the International Breakfast. On his drive home he listened to several of them, including one entitled Lifestyle Evangelism by Bill Fay. The next morning, while walking his dog, Robert led a man he had never met before to the Lord! 🍔

WANT THE LATEST?

Firefighters For Christ, International has moved to a new office in order to cut down on monthly rent. Our address is 23011 Moulton Parkway, Suite F-6, Laguna Hills, CA 92653.

Check out www.firefightersforchrist.org to keep informed and involved through links to FFC Chapters, Events & Activities and Outreach Ministry opportunities. You can also send prayer requests and order FFC CD's and Ministry Aids through FFC's website.

FDNY FFC will again represent FFC International at Firehouse Expo in Baltimore, Maryland, July 22 – 27, 2008. Jerry Sillcocks exclaims, "We have one of the best sites to share Jesus at this year's Expo." Besides giving away CD's, FFC will be promoting the soon to be released movie, FIREPROOF.

Does the Lord want you to compete and share Jesus Christ with other World Game participants? Join Northern Ireland FFC as they host a booth at the World Fire Games in Liverpool, England, August 24 – September 2, 2008. For information about being a participant, e-mail Paul Steusel at psteusel@cox.net. If you are planning to compete as a Firefighter For Christ, please e-mail MarkMollet@Firefighters-ForChrist.org for FFC T-Shirts. They are FFC's gift to you!

Save October 10 – 12 for Morongo Basin FFC Chapter's 2nd Annual FAMILY CAMPOUT. You'll find all the details at www.firefightersforchrist.org! 🍔



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