FIREPROOF is having a profound impact on Fire Service families. FDIC attendees in Indianapolis and FDNY members were some of the first firefighters to see this action-packed story before its release in theatres, where it touched the hearts of millions of moviegoers. Now that the DVD is available, firefighters are watching it in their homes, stations and churches. Some of their stories are shared on FIREPROOF’S blog.

I am a full-time firefighter. This story mirrors my life exactly. I have had the same problems in my marriage. This story has given me inspiration to become a better person. I will love my wife more now, and put her above all else. Thanks for this movie!

Wow! What an amazing story. I am a career firefighter that has always put my work before my wife. This movie TRULY opened my eyes. I am going to do whatever it takes to show my wife what she means to me. Thank you so much, FIREPROOF!

I have been a paramedic for 19 years and married for 10 years. I sat down to watch this movie on my Ipod one morning on the unit. It was like I was hit in the gut so hard. I thought they had been following me for 10 years. It was like watching the mistakes that I had made over and over. I cried a lot that morning and realized the changes that I needed to make. One of them was to let Jesus back...
**FIREPROOF**
Continued from Page 1

Into my heart. I was baptized as a kid, but I haven’t been to church in 10 years. I am working on becoming a better man and a better Christian. I haven’t cussed but a few times in the last few days (a miracle in itself for me). I know that I will never be perfect, but I can strive for it.

**I’m a volunteer firefighter.** My wife and I have been separated for 2 years. I love her and miss her, and I don’t want to be with anyone else. I saw the movie when I was in Texas working. When it came out, I bought it and I called her and asked if she would come and watch it with me. We watched the movie and cried together. My favorite part of the movie was when he said a woman is like a rose, treat her right and she will bloom. Treat her wrong and she’ll wilt. I recommend this movie to people whose marriages are strong or broken.

I saw this movie along with my husband, who is a fireman. This movie hit home for us in more than one way. We had been going through a very rough time in our marriage. At times it felt as though someone had recorded our life. This was an amazing movie. We bought The Love Dare book and did the 40-day journey, and things have been great ever since. Thanks to whoever made this movie. I have shared it with as many as I can.

I recently rented FIREPROOF, not knowing anything about the movie except that it was about a fireman and his wife. My husband is a fireman. We have been married 8 years, and it has been a struggle to say the least. We both brought a lot of emotional baggage into the relationship. He had serious problems with his anger, as well as a pornography addiction. We fought constantly about these things and also him putting the fire department above our marriage. A few years ago, I selfishly excused flirting with another man as innocent. I justified it to myself because of my husband’s pornography addiction. Before I knew it, we were in the midst of an affair, and I told my husband I wanted a divorce. He, however, refused to accept this. He sought counseling through our church and strong Christian family members. He fought to save our marriage even when I was uncooperative. Finally, through a lot of hard work and prayer, we restored our relationship with each other, and most of all, God. You can imagine our shock as we sat in our living room watching FIREPROOF together.

We were both left speechless. I cried for almost an hour after the movie was over. It was so hard to practically watch our life from the outside. Thank you so much for making this movie. We have been doing great for months, and seeing this movie strengthened our commitment to serving the Lord as a married couple.

**My husband is a proud firefighter.** At first, he was a little reluctant to watch the movie because romantic-type movies are not “macho” enough for him. We watched the movie in the theater, then bought the DVD and have watched it a few times since. We are attending a FIREPROOF church small group, and we love watching the movie clips and really analyzing what God wants for us in our marriage. My husband is known to be the firefighter on shift to bring in the movies for the guys to watch during down time. He usually brings action or horror movies, but one of his co-workers asked to borrow FIREPROOF, so he brought it into work. It turns out, all of the guys on the shift watched it together and it really touched them! I just smile thinking about a whole firehouse of macho guys being moved by God’s love!

**My husband is a fireman,** so this movie was very real to our everyday life. Our church is currently going through the “Fireproof Your Marriage” classes. God knew we needed to be at every class, and He has made it possible that my husband hasn’t had to miss one. This movie was so life changing for us as a couple, as well as for me as an individual. My love and appreciation for my husband has grown beyond words, and I am so thankful that this movie was made. I can’t wait to see what God has planned for us now!

Thank you for producing a beautiful, Christ-centered movie. I am married to a firefighter. We are in our 16th year of marriage, and we are closer than we’ve ever been, though not without “passing through the fire” as the couple in this movie did. Without the love of Christ and His help, we could not have made it through. Marriage requires a perspective of selflessness, which does not come naturally, but with desire and prayer, it can be learned, and the blessings are immeasurable.

▲ Steve Pousett and Darin Adams are FFC members from Surrey, Canada who helped at a DVD showing of FIREPROOF.

“Half of the people who attended this evening were non-churched,” says Carl Ens. “For us to have such an incredible tool like FIREPROOF is a real answer to prayer. The message is so powerful and shows the need to have God as the foundation of all marriages. As we hear of marriages struggling and on the brink of divorce, we want this film shown wherever possible. We’re having preview evenings for key couples to encourage them to invite their co-workers, friends and family members. The movie nights are advertised in fire halls, coffee shops and by word of mouth. Our desire is to work through local churches and offer couples an opportunity to join a LOVE DARE study group. FIREPROOF was never shown in Canadian theatres, so we are praising Canadian theatres, so we are praising God for using the DVD to heal marriages across the country.”

“My love & appreciation for my husband has grown beyond words, and I am so thankful that this movie was made. I can’t wait to see what God has planned for us now!”

P A G E 2
Members of FDNY FFC's Chapter are leaving a FIREPROOF DVD and The Love Dare Book at every station in NYC. Provident Films and B&H Publishing Group are the donors of these generous gifts. This crew was gone at the time of FFC's delivery but Frank Costa made sure he left them a message.

Many firefighters are taking the Love Dare Challenge whether their marriage is hanging by a thread or healthy and strong. Shane Milligan, FFC member from Kingman, AZ, says he and his wife, Michelle, are inseparable. Their love for the Lord and each other is helping them lead a group of ten couples through The Love Dare Bible Study. Session themes cover issues such as honoring your spouse, forgiveness, building marriage on prayer and God’s Word, unconditional love and more. “God is at work restoring and building up marriages,” says Shane. “Couples are excited about the study. After six weeks, we’ll repeat it again.”

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“This movie is really about me. I had left my wife behind. This is a must-see for all firefighters & families.”
FFC Surrey, Canada members prayed for a ‘God-sized’ event for their night of Tribute to 9/11 Heroes. In faith, they originally asked the Lord to fill a 100-seat facility. When God provided a 1200-seat auditorium, they knew His plans were greater than they imagined.

“This was an incredible journey for us,” says Carl Ens. “We saw God working in so many ways. With the support of FFC International, John and Jane White and FDNY members Dominic Cassese, Jerry Sillcocks, and Carlos Vazquez came as our honored guests. The guys visited a large number of the fire halls in Surrey and Vancouver and we listened as they presented the gospel so clearly. They taught us boldness and were a true answer to prayer. They gave radio interviews and stations promoted the event free of charge. When the evening finally arrived, just over 900 people attended! Tribute was paid to the 343 FDNY members who lost their lives on September 11th. We also shared the hope we have of eternal life through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The message was clear. People responded. It was evident that God’s hand was on His event!”

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.firefightersforchrist.org

If you would like to receive a DVD of this event, email Carl Ens at: ensfamily@yahoo.ca

They pray this will be an encouragement to you as you serve in your department.

Led by pipers, FDNY marched into “A Night To Remember.”

The Lord used many firefighters, who stepped up to the plate, to make “A Night To Remember” a memorable success.
According to God’s economy, He always brings the increase as we encourage firefighters to live their lives for Jesus Christ. He does exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think according to His power that works within us. Ephesians 3:20

Jesus’ last words to us: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

I encourage you to engrave these scriptures into your life and through the power of the Holy Spirit be an example “to the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12b)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:2

I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, …… put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:17a and 4:24

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1

We pray that you would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work. Colossians 1:10a

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that we proclaim it clearly as we should. Colossians 4:2-4

Be wise in the way you act toward others. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5-6

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21

Do not let any unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29

Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:4

Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Philippians 4:6

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17

May God Himself, the God of Peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it! Thessalonians 5:22-24

Fix your thoughts on what is true & honorable & right.
Think about things that are pure & lovely & admirable.
Think about things that are excellent & worthy of praise.

Philippians 4:8

John White, President/Chaplain
Firefighters For Christ, International
Leadership by the Book

Leadership—it’s a word that conjures many images and thoughts, especially in the fire service, an institution, which by its very nature demands effective leadership at many levels. Amazon.com, Borders and other booksellers can summon any one of thousands of titles on the subject for those interested in studying the topic or developing their own “leadership style.”

By Mike Bell
FFC West End Chapter Leader

or one can look no further than what Jesus Christ had to say about leadership, as He was mentoring those whom He would eventually charge with the minor task of changing the world. In settling a power struggle between His handpicked successors, Jesus said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.” For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:42-45)

As He so often did, Jesus crushed the paradigm of His followers by upending everything they thought they understood about leadership. The leadership model of Jesus is that of a servant—one who sees and puts the needs of others ahead of their own, who follows through on things promised, does the hard things for the good of the mission and does not grow weary of doing good. (Galatians 6:9)

An FFC Chapter leader gets on the job training in servant leadership. The only book needed is the Word of God, as it provides many examples of leadership challenges along with practical tips on navigating each dilemma. One of the key challenges for the FFC Chapter leader is discouragement when few if any people are showing up at regular meetings. Posters are up in the stations, e-mails go out, and guys are reminded. Everyone knows when and where the meetings are, but they still don’t come, at least not as many as you would hope.

God’s Word reminds us that it is not for us to be concerned about numbers, but to simply be faithful to that which we have been called to do. David was soundly rebuked for taking a census of Israel without prompting by God. (1 Chronicles 21) A census is not wrong in itself, but the motivation by David was in question since his calling from God was to simply trust God to do as He promised, which was to make Israel a great nation and bless David’s throne. God desires His leaders to exercise faith by carrying out that which He has asked, leaving the results in the hands of God.

As FFC leaders we are called to facilitate the opportunity for firefighters to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ. Our part is to faithfully carry out that calling by doing whatever it takes to keep that fire burning locally so firefighters can see Christ through the transformed lives of fellow believers. Whether it’s a scheduled breakfast, an e-mail blog, FFC tapes and CD’s, or one on one discipleship, the leaders role is to set the stage. Make the date, stick with it, send the e-mail, and then be there.

God will bring the right people each and every time. If no one shows up then the time was meant for you, the leader, to be alone with God.

The West End Chapter (Rancho Cucamonga, CA) was struggling after a few years of meeting in the early 90’s. Finding a speaker, printing and mailing cards (pre-Internet), location problems and low turnout became very burdensome. The leader was ready to throw in the towel. Then, as can be expected, wisdom from the Word (and from a sage advisor) came in the nick of time. “Don’t stop, do whatever it takes, give up the speaker, just meet, just be there, never grow weary of doing good and don’t give up meeting, just gather and encourage one another.” (Hebrews 10:25)

Since that time the West End Chapter has met every second Friday of every month, together now for over 17 years. There has never been a meeting with less than two people, most have between 6-12. No speaker; a short devotion rotated among some of the regulars and prayer—always pray, in Jesus name as the Word again instructs us. (John 14:14) Amazing answers to those prayers keep us faithful to that blessed task. A special tradition has developed from these meetings. Anytime a new, younger firefighter arrives or an attendee brings a child to these meetings. Anytime a new, younger firefighter arrives or an attendee brings a child we stand and lay hands on them and pray for them as a form of commissioning them for service to the Lord. That has become a precious time for our group.

We leave a very generous tip to our waitress, acknowledging that our very presence brings with it the presence of Jesus Christ. We may never know what may happen in her life or anyone else’s in the restaurant as a result of their encounter with Christ through us who just show up, hang out, eat and pray.

That’s all up to God, our job as FFC leaders is to remain faithful, fan the flame and serve the people God has put before us so He can gain access to their lives within the context of their unique occupation and complete that good work that has already begun. (Philippians 1:6)
CHAPTER MEETINGS

Fulfilling FFC’s Mission Goal: Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Prayer is a key component of Branson FFC’s meetings. After a testimony or devotion is given, prayer requests and praises are shared. Then time is spent in prayer, giving anyone, who may desire, an opportunity to pray.

FFC Orange County, CA Leader, Mike Schroeder says, “Our two retreats per year draw in great groups of guys. “Last summer’s rafting trip was a blast. Guys share significant struggles and victories that really minister to one another.”

The Branson, Missouri FD has between 45-50 career and volunteer fire personnel. Jeff Wilcox says, “We average between 18-25 for our breakfast each month. We are truly blessed to have very strong Christians in our administration led by Chief Carl Sparks and many others who have recently helped us form the Branson/Ozarks Chapter of FFC.”

“The weather and ski conditions on our winter retreat was amazing,” said Mike. “There were guys who re-committed their lives to Jesus Christ. New friendships were formed, the food was great and our fellowship was priceless.” As a Firefighter For Christ, Mike writes a monthly e-mail devotional encouraging guys to live their lives for Jesus Christ. His last letter concluded with Romans 8:31. “…If God be for us. Who can be against us.”

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At the invitation of Outreach Adventure Mexico, Firefighters For Christ, International is sending a ministry team to Monterrey, Mexico August 2 – 9. A few departments close by the city will be coming during the day for hands on firefighting training. Because of the donations Outreach Adventure Mexico has been privileged to give their community of Cadereyta, Nuevo Leon, the doors are wide open to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Their last sponsored training session, which covered the Jaws of Life, brought excellent results. Firefighters For Christ International’s vision is to reach firefighters worldwide with the gospel of Jesus Christ and to make disciples of them. (Matthew 28:19-20)

If you would like to be a FFC team member, please contact JohnWhite@FirefightersForChrist.org. Housing, food and local transportation will be approximately $350.00. You will also need to purchase a round-trip ticket to and from Monterrey, Mexico. While you are training firefighters, your family members may be able to minister in orphanages, old age homes and churches. We would all be together in the evenings. Come and be part of God’s harvest of the nations!

Firefighters For Christ in Tijuana, Mexico has been meeting for some time now. This picture was recently given to FFC International at Firehouse Expo, held in San Diego. Let’s be sure and pray for all our brothers and sisters in Mexico.