Mission Accomplished!

The Spirit of the Lord accomplished Mission Possible 2007! Acts 1:8 “As always, God does exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” said FFC President, John White. “The way that God brought us together, with most of us having never met, is a testimony to God’s power. The way in which we all blended together as a family, is a testimony of His love,” said Rob Michaels from Fresno, CA FD.

Twenty-three FFC members from the USA accepted Northern Ireland FFC’s invitation to minister to their firefighters and friends. Brian Price, one of the ‘Magnificent Seven’ from Fresno said, “This mission has impacted me beyond measure. I came to this Emerald Isle expecting to learn a thing or two about firefighting and firefighters in Northern Ireland. Instead, I learned more about myself and the incredible God I serve. The bonds that were made will not be easily broken — bonds made with men of incredible caliber, whose hearts’ desire is to serve the Lord. They prepared the way for a “shot-gun” approach to share Jesus Christ with their co-workers. Through different settings, ranging from shift work to sporting events, to outreach services and church services, the Kingdom of God was advanced. I hope to return home to my wife and children, who so graciously allowed me to go and serve, with a renewed commitment to serve them as the Lord has commissioned me to do as a man of God, father, husband and friend.”

“I still can’t believe that God chose me and allowed me to be part of this mission. It was amazing,” said Gabriel Hammett from Morongo Basin, CA FFC’s Chapter. God has changed my life from this mission and I pray that the ripple effects continue to go out in our places of work and the Island of Ireland. Getting to meet all of you was a joy. I can see the light of the Lord in every one of you.”

Continued on Page 2

FFC Team Visits BIA

FFC’s International Team was given the red-carpet treatment everywhere they went. Paul Johnson from Vernon, CA FD said, “I still can’t believe how graciously we were treated. They literally gave us the shirts off their backs.” Tracey White from Washington State agreed. “The warmth and hospitality we received in Belfast was unsurpassed from any country I have traveled to in the past 30 years. It is the people that truly make this place so grand!”
Mission Accomplished!
Continued from Page 1

FFFC’s Northern Ireland’s President, Robert Blair and their Ministry Team prayed fervently in preparation for Mission Possible 2007. They and their families sacrificed a great deal in order that God’s ordained appointments could be accomplished. The Lord answered their prayers. People prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior and others recommitted their lives to Christ.

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue generously supplied four vehicles and the fuel for MP7. As the team traveled and saw the lush pastures and countryside, they understood why the color green is associated with this beautiful land.

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“God made His presence known from the very start of our mission,” said Bob Markoski, Anaheim, CA FD. Four hours into my first shift, my old engineer, who was on vacation in Ireland, walked into the fire station where I was working. When he saw me, he was overwhelmed with emotion. He broke down and held me tightly. Only God could have arranged our meeting. It had been eleven years since I had shared Christ with Huck. God brought him all the way to Belfast to get his attention. Pray that Huck asks Jesus into his heart.”
“I came to this Emerald Isle expecting to learn a thing or two about firefighting and firefighters in Northern Ireland. Instead, I learned more about myself and the incredible God I serve.”

Chief Officer, Brian Gough and John White spent most of one day together sharing heart to heart as brothers in Christ.

“As always, God does exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”
Ephesians 3:20

It’s Teatime at the Fire Station. Paul Steusel said, “I saw firemen spending time in fire stations making friendships that will last a lifetime. These same men had spiritual encounters that will have eternal consequences.”

Lt. to rt.: Janice Hamilton, Sheri Steusel, Lorraine Rankin, Shelly Maurer, Shawna Hermann, Deena Bondarczuk, and Marie Laveaga spent ten days together. Heart to heart connections were made as they ministered to each other. The Lord added to their number through wonderful outreaches to Belfast’s gracious women.
Mission Accomplished!
Continued from Page 3

Ralph and Rob Michaels, father and son from Fresno, CA FD, partnered together in ministry. Ralph, who is 81 said, “This trip has made an old man’s heart proud to still be a firefighter. May God continue to grow Firefighters For Christ around the world from the seeds you plant.”

Robert Blair said, “My long term hope for this ministry is to see younger committed members coming into the leadership so we can see this work continue.” Robert is already thinking about a MP13 Outreach during the World Police and Firefighter Games, which will be hosted by Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue and Police Services. “What an amazing opportunity this will be for us to share the gospel with firefighters and police officers from all over the world. They will be right at our doorstep. This is an once in a lifetime event.”

Robert has a big vision for the future of FFFC Northern Ireland. “I hope to have a full time worker to help move the work forward. There is always so much to do, so many people to reach, so many people hurting, and so many people need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. They need to see His love in action through us. I pray that we will continue to be a part of His work in this wonderful ministry and family of Firefighters For Christ.” FFFC Northern Ireland can be reached by e-mail at info@fffc.co.uk.

“To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:21
Since 1995 our Fresno Area Firefighters For Christ Chapter has met without fail. Our members welcome new employees to the fire service at a Family Night, where we, along with others FD groups, provide their meal. We introduce ourselves, state our mission, invite the recruits to join our meetings and let them know about some of our outreaches.

One of our local ministries is to provide a fire engine to Faithful Feet Ministry, to facilitate a mass foot washing of children, who cannot afford new shoes. After their feet are cleaned, they are given a fresh pair of socks and a brand new pair of shoes. Globally, our members have ministered in the Philippines, Mexico, and Ireland. We’ve also sent teams to Ground Zero in NYC and to Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina.

Recently, we have seen God take our chapter to new levels. Two years ago, three of us attended a men’s conference (Everyman Ministries) and out of that event a small accountability group was born. Each man in that group experienced a dramatic change in their faith walk. The consistency, transparency and unity raised a new expectation for what Christian fellowship could look like. We sharpened each other by opening up our lives to the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit and each other. The effect was instantaneous. There were reports of fresh intimacy with wives, a passion to share the gospel with friends and strangers, and victory over repeated bouts with sin.

After a year of meeting together, we organized two fellowship nights to share what God was doing in our lives. Out of those nights, three other groups of four were born and began to meet. The effect was contagious! Reports of our fellowship went out and several others began to inquire if they might become involved. God was whetting appetites.

I believe that hunger to connect on a real focused level is consistent among Christian men everywhere. We men want to make a difference and we cannot do it alone. We need to connect and watch each other’s backs. It’s so vital that we walk in the light as Jesus is in the light and being accountable to each other helps us to do that.

It has been a battle to keep strong. Schedules are a challenge. At one point three of us were on three separate shifts and the only window we could meet was one day a week at a fire station at 5:30 AM. We did it because we knew how crucial it was for us. There was also a powerful witness to the duty firefighters who were pouring coffee as we strolled out of our meeting each morning. “You’re getting up this early for WHAT?”

We have also found out that if we are spotty in our meeting, we all suffer. We make every effort to be consistent in gathering and that includes communicating throughout the week to share prayer requests or praises. Bottom line — we are doing life together and having a dramatic impact on the Kingdom. The ripple effect is evident. Our wives get a better husband, our children get a better dad, and God gets a more faithful, effective son.

We should not minimize the spiritual battle, though. The Apostle Paul tells us that we should not be “unaware.” The enemy hates us and he hates it when we gather together to honor Jesus. He would much rather have us isolated, ashamed, defeated and ineffective.

Some keys that have helped us succeed: There has to be shared commitment to spiritual growth. There must be safety in sharing. Confidentiality should be stated and understood, even with spouses.

Friendship is important. This is a starting point for going deeper. Truth/Grace balance is required. Speak the truth to each other in love and focus on restoration when necessary. Be consistent — weekly is best. Stay humble. Stay transparent. Don’t lie. Be patient. There will be peaks and valleys in the dynamics of every group. Try to find a format. Ours includes prayer, sharing, teaching, Bible Study and more prayer. Tweak it as the Holy Spirit leads. Let God control the meeting.

Even if it is only two believers gathering together, it is a good starting point for an accountability group. When we do this, we are being strategic and purposeful. Each of us agrees that this is one of the best investments we have ever made.
President’s Message

Paul’s prayer in II Thessalonians 1:11-12 is our constant prayer for you: “That our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Some of Jesus’ last words before He was taken up to heaven are found in Acts 1:5b and Acts 1:8. “In a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. 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.” After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:9

Recently, I’ve been looking closely at the lives of Jesus’ disciples, those who personally walked and talked with Jesus, thinking about how they operated after Jesus returned to heaven. My conclusions — they did just what Jesus did and they were His witnesses!

They returned to Jerusalem and all joined together constantly in prayer. Acts 1:12-14

They went and gave to the people what they had. “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Acts 3:6

Peter said, “It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.” Acts 4:10

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

The Sanhedrin conferred and asked, “What are we going to do with these men? We must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.” They called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. Acts 4:15-18

But Peter and John replied, “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:19-20

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. Acts 4:33

The apostles were put in jail but an angel of the Lord released them so they could stand in the temple courts and tell the people the full message of this new life. Acts 5:18-20

The Sanhedrin gave them strict orders not to teach in Jesus’ name. Acts 5:28 They were flogged and ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. Acts 5:40-42

The disciples have given us a clear model to present Jesus to the world around us. With the Holy Spirit’s power, we are His witnesses. As we pray in the name of Jesus, we identify the God to whom we pray. As we live our lives for Jesus, we identify the God we serve. Leave out the name of Jesus and you loose His power.

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11

Let us exalt His Name together!

Your brother in Jesus,

John White

Firefighters For Christ, Intl.

Check Out

www.firefightersforchrist.org

Have you taken a recent look at our FFC website? It’s new and improved with a great new look and is getting better all the time.

Its purpose is to encourage you to live your life for Jesus Christ! Each Sunday we post a new weekly message. Accountability groups and chapters may want to use the discussion questions that accompany some of the videos. There is also a daily devotional, words of wisdom and a monthly prayer letter to apply to your life. Keep informed and involved through links to FFC Chapters, Events & Activities and Outreach Ministry opportunities. You can also make prayer requests, order FFC CD’s and Ministry Aids from www.firefightersforchrist.org.

Our Newsletter will be on our website for you to read and download. However, if you would like to receive your issue by U.S. Mail, please PRINT CLEARLY as you complete the form provided and mail it to Firefighters For Christ, International, 23011 Moulton Pkwy, Suite C-13, Laguna Hills, CA 92655.

FFC’s International Breakfast!

An early evening fellowship dinner and prayer time on Thursday, January 24, 2008, will be held at FFC’s International office to kick off FFC’s annual firefighter’s conference. Active, retired and next generation firefighters, their wives and friends are encouraged to attend any or all of the weekend events. At 6 AM Friday morning, the men will meet at Pete McKenzie’s Men’s Meeting in Irvine. Returning to FFC’s office, the men will have breakfast and be able to meet together all morning. Ladies are invited to Jane White’s home in Irvine for a morning share and prayer time. Friday night’s dinner at the Irvine Hilton will be from 6 – 9 PM. Firefighters For Christ’s International Breakfast will begin at 8 AM on Saturday, January 26th at the Irvine Hilton, which is located right across the street from John Wayne Airport. Activities Saturday evening include dinner at the Soup Plantation in Irvine at 5 PM and Prayer and Praise at 7 PM at the White’s House. FFC’s Church Service Sunday morning will be at the Hilton at 8:15 and our annual El Torito Brunch at 9:45 AM will conclude at noon.

No matter where in the world you live, ask the Lord if He wants you to join your brothers and sisters in Christ at FFC’s International Weekend. Our prayer is that you will come to be encouraged and to encourage others to live their lives for Jesus Christ!

A reservation form with all the details will be available in FFC’s Fall Newsletter and on www.firefightersforchrist.org by October 2007.
FDNY Project Update

A Bible in Every Firehouse

There are 221 fire stations in New York City and the FDNY FFC Chapter has nearly completed its goal of placing a station Bible in every NYC firehouse. Their purpose is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their fellow firefighters. Their outreach began in 2003. This year their final phase began in Manhattan. FFC members visit 3-5 firehouses per month. They always ask permission from the officer before entering the station. If granted, they present special Bibles to the crew and share the message of hope in Christ to anyone who would like to hear. Chapter leader, Jerry Sillcocks, asks us to pray for the firehouses they will visit and for all the FDNY members, who have heard the Gospel from their brothers.

Rich Klein, a retired FDNY firefighter, loves the fire service and most importantly loves God and His Word. Here he shares that joy with a station in Queens, NY as he displays their Bible.

Engine 62 in the Bronx is presented their station Bible by Frank Walsh.

Copiah County, MS FFC

Dustin Brewer, Fire Chief of Wesson, MS Volunteer FD, is the President of Firefighters For Christ's newest chapter. This spring, during FFC Emergency Relief Team’s final trip to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, ERT members drove two hours north to Wesson, Mississippi for a Sunday evening church service. The team was privileged to pray and lay hands on Copiah County’s FFC leadership. Dustin says, “Since the end of March, we have had three meetings. I’m very pleased with the turn out and plan on visiting all the fire departments and personally inviting everyone to our meetings.” How great it would be to have members of Copiah County, MS Chapter be part of FFC’s International Breakfast Weekend, January 24-27, 2008.

Yes, please mail me the FFC Newsletter, using the following information

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The Word of God continues to increase and spread throughout the world. Acts 12:24 “We’re getting 600,000 downloads a month from our website,” says Steve Jones, Administrator of FFC’s Tape Ministry. Thirty percent of these are coming from countries other than the United States and Canada.

Steve believes that the Lord is bringing revival to India. While ministering there, he said 150 – 200 people waited patiently in line for prayer. “It’s a country with 10 million gods, none of which have any power. Their spiritual hunger is great,” related Steve. One man, who was born Muslim, has been corresponding regularly with the Tape Ministry. He wrote that he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior while attending a Christian School. He completed Bible College and now is distributing FFC CD’s to any Muslim, who will receive them. The Lord says, “It is the same with my Word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.” Isaiah 55:11

FFC Tape Ministry faithful volunteers read lots of mail from grateful recipients. Soldiers in Iraq send letters as well as prisoners and people from every walk of life. One man from New Zealand wrote: “I just wanted to say thanks for the NKJV Bible CDs and all the messages. My MP3 was stolen and it has been difficult to replace all the Bible files I had on it. I have memorized six books of the Bible and your CDs you sent me will help me to carry on. Thank you so much! Your ministry is such a blessing!”

Another writer said, “It has been a real joy receiving the messages that you guys share. I have given them to people at work and family members. The joy continues when they share the messages with their family members and friends. May God continue to bless you and your ministry. Keep up the good work!”

Go to firefightersforchrist.org and click on FFC Tape Ministry or FFC MP3 Site. You can join the thousands that are downloading the Word of God.

“Finally brethren pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, even as it is with you.” II Thessalonians 3:1