Miracles In Monterrey

The Lord said, “I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.”(Isaiah 45:2-3)

I have not seen anything like what we saw in Mexico this trip,” said Pat Stilson. God leveled, broke through, cut, gave, and summoned us by name. This outreach was a gift (treasure) beyond our wildest dreams. Our God is truly an awesome God that longs for us to see His Glory. We saw His Glory!”

Danny Elizarraras, Jorge Perez, Dan Rodriguez, and John White were the other team members, who witnessed God’s mighty work. Each of them belong to LAFD newly formed Firefighters For Christ Chapter. They flew to Monterrey at the invitation of Outreach Adventure Mexico. Their hosts, Agustin and Jody Launchbury, asked FFC International to bring equipment and provide hands on firefighting training. They gave assurance that there would be opportunities to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to the firefighters.

Before the team left, the Lord led Jay Tracy, FFC member from Fresno, CA, to ask his chief for any used firefighting clothing his department could give away. Generously, Chief Randy Breugman of the Fresno FD, denoted helmets, boots, gloves and brush gear. These became valuable gifts to the professional firefighters of Monterrey.

The Lord orchestrated every detail of the mission. Dan Rodriguez said, “It’s hard to put into words what transpired in such a short period of time. Pat Stilson’s famous quote throughout the trip was, ‘We just show up.’ He’s right. God did everything and we just showed up.”

Six people prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior after the team’s first gospel presentation on Sunday morning in the city of Benito Juarez. After the service, the pastor

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contacted the local fire chief and invited his firefighters to a FFC training session. It was held Wednesday afternoon at the church. The response was amazing. Eighteen out of twenty firefighters indicated a desire to receive Christ, including the chief and his secretary. Afterwards, the chief asked the pastor if he would meet with him at his station for weekly prayer. The pastor agreed and offered his church for future fire department use. Agustin and Jody knew their prayers for the local church to reach out to the community and government agencies were answered.

God gave FFC team members immediate rapport with the chief and fifty of his firefighters in the city of Guadalupé. After the fifth day of training, forty out of forty-three firefighters, who were present at the Gospel presentation, asked Jesus into their hearts. Some of the original fifty were on duty at another station. Their chief graciously hosted the team all week and was one of the forty who indicated he had received Jesus as his Savior.

An unexpected invitation came from the general manager of the second largest Pemex refinery in Mexico. He is a believer and friend of the host missionaries. He wanted the FFC team to attend his weekly safety meeting with all his management heads and safety personnel. After introductions, questions were answered and once again the Lord made a way for the Gospel to be presented. Following the closing prayer, many came forward to thank the team for their attendance and the last FFC CDs and Bibles were given away. Afterwards, a man, with tears in his eyes, introduced himself as a believer. He said his prayer group was up until 2:30 in the morning asking the Lord that Firefighters For Christ would give a clear gospel presentation to all in attendance.

The last message about a relationship with Jesus was given at Augustine and Jody’s newly formed home church. About a dozen or so people indicated a desire to have Jesus in their life.

Dan Rodriguez said, “I don’t pretend to know all the mysteries of God, but I do know God the Father offered up His only Son on a cross that we might have the forgiveness of sins. Jesus suffered a brutal death upon that cross, but three days later rose again, claiming victory over sin and death. It’s the conviction of the Holy Spirit that draws us to the cross to receive forgiveness of sin and the assurance of eternal life. In other words, it’s all God’s doing….thankfully so.”

“The power of prayer was evident,” Dan said. “Before the trip, I was too busy gathering equipment and working on a training curriculum to build up a prayer team. After arriving in Mexico, I knew we needed prayer so I quickly emailed family and friends, asking them to pray. Some passed the request on to others and we were covered with prayer. Little did I know that email would be sent literally around the world. Firefighters For Christ International put our mission on their prayer chain and soon the chapter in New York was lifting us up in prayer, as were our brothers in Ireland and elsewhere. Steffen Swartz from Germany even translated our petitions into German and sent it throughout their ministry for prayer. To all those who kept us in prayer...THANK YOU!”

“Continue to pray for Agustin and Jody, their family, their home church and ministry, and for all the Guadalupe and Juarez firefighters new to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray also for an FFC chapter to start up in that area. The need and opportunity in Mexico is great. I would highly recommend this type of outreach to other FFC chapters. I would be more than happy to offer any advice from our trip. Be covered in prayer, show up and watch our God of all miracles give firefighters new life in Jesus Christ!”

Each of the firefighters received a loop of webbing and carabiner as a gift from FFC. Their training ranged from technical rope to brush operations and swift water rescue.
But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.’” 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV). This was the passage Pat Stilson, Chapter Director of Firefighters For Christ International, gave John White, as he accepted his new position within the ministry. He told John, “This verse is my resume.” John wholeheartedly accepted it!

Pat Stilson has interacted with many of you this past year. He was blessed to be part of Mission Possible 2009 to Northern Ireland and has taken every opportunity to attend chapter meetings and spend quality time with FFC members. From these relationships, Pat says, “I’m in awe of you guys’ hearts to serve the Master. You bring Him glory in many ways.

Pat says that Firefighters For Christ, International has around forty-five active chapters, some brand new, some that have been around for many years. All of these chapter leaders started by prayerfully studying and filling out paperwork from the FFC Chapter Leaders Notebook. From these pages, Pat has adapted this pledge:

“As your Chapter Director, I will in God’s power:
Be faithful to respond to your needs.
Be an example to you
in my daily life by being pure.
Have a tremendous love for righteousness & a powerful hate for evil.
Encourage you in your spiritual development by leading you to follow the dictates of scripture.
With all sincerity & because of God’s grace, Patrick Stilson.”

Jerry and Jennifer White

Prayer — The Greater Work!

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater works; prayer is the greater work.” Oswald Chambers penned these words as he reflected on John 14:12-14, where Jesus says: “The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it!”

Firefighters For Christ started in a prayer meeting and the Lord’s ministry continues today because of the faithful prayers of God’s people. Jennifer White beautifully orchestrates FFC’s prayer chain. She says, “It’s amazing to see the Lord work through the prayers of His saints. Team members are from Canada, South Africa, the United Kingdom and every corner of the United States. Intercessors forward requests to their chapters and church prayer chains. Some respond to the person requesting prayer with wise counsel and encouragement. It’s truly a ‘team’ effort.” For requests and/or team membership, email Jennifer at Prayer@FirefightersForChrist.org.

Jerry and Jennifer White have servants’ hearts. They love people and the Lord!

FFC Expo Ministry

Jerry White, a retired San Diego, California firefighter, has been manning FFC’s exhibits for some time. The Lord has gifted him with a great smile. His approachable personality puts firefighters at ease as they visit FFC’s booth. Recently, Jerry accepted the position of Expo Director of Firefighters For Christ, International. His story took place at Firehouse World’s last Expo.

“He is a big, strong and confident young man in his mid 20’s. He’s your typical professional firefighter, and like many of us, is consistently being called out to help people in need. He is the fixer. He is the person the public looks to for help when all else fails. He’s been a firefighter for a couple of years now and is becoming more confident in his skills and more dependent upon himself. Most of us more seasoned firefighters have experienced this normal transition. We can handle almost anything thrown our way until the unexpected happens and we find ourselves helpless to fix the problem.”

“After stories and words of encouragement were shared, we introduced our new friend to John White. John asked him if he had a relationship with Jesus Christ. His self-confidence and independence held him back for a moment, but soon he prayed and asked Jesus to come into his heart.”

“This young man is like many firefighters who stop by our booths,” said Jerry. “He’s not suffering from a major catastrophe or life-threatening illness. He’s just a man whose heart God prepares to receive His Son, Jesus Christ.”

FFC members have shared Jesus with untold numbers of firefighters. Through FFC CD’s and newsletters, firefighters are given the opportunity to hear and read about what only the Lord can do in their lives. Email Jerry at info@firefightersforchrist.org, if you want to help staff a FFC booth. In 2010, Firefighters For Christ will be at Firehouse World San Diego, FDIC in Indianapolis and Firehouse Expo in Baltimore. Your prayers are vital for these outreaches!”
International Weekend 2010

Fire Muster is being added to all the fun and games at Hume Lake Firefighters’ Conference. One department has already requested event information, so they could start practicing. The muster coordinator promised he would let them know all the details about five minutes before each event. Doesn’t seem fair, does it? Guys and gals, be sure and bring a change of clothes. It could get quite muddy!

You won’t want to miss FFC’s welcome reception at Meadow Ranch’s Hume N’ Beans beginning at 3 PM on Thursday, March 25th. At 6:30 PM, our first scrumptious meal will be served at Hume’s Ponderosa dining hall. After dinner, the fun begins as firefighters’ beloved Eric Simpson commences his humorous antics. We’ll meet at Meadow Ranch’s Chapel, where FFC Chapter leaders and others will share their hearts and ministries. It’s a time to get acquainted, make new friends, and be encouraged to live your lives for Jesus Christ.

Friday morning, the men will be alone for more fellowship together with Mickey Stonier. He’s Chaplain for San Diego Fire Department and understands the needs of firefighters. After the coffee break, a panel of firefighters will answer confidential questions, written ahead of time by the men. Ladies will be blessed by a beautiful teatime, hosted by Hume Lake’s firefighters’ wives. Yvonne Downs will be ministering God’s Word and quality time will be given for prayer and sharing. After lunch, you’ll be free to enjoy Hume’s awesome recreation or to get some rest. At 3:00 PM, the Firefighters’ Conference will begin. We hope you will join us for the entire weekend!
INTERNATIONAL WEEKEND EVENT

March 25-26, 2010

Held in conjunction with Hume Lake Christian Camps’ Firefighters Conference March 26-28, 2010

FULL DETAILS AT www.firefightersforchrist.org

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AT www.humelake.org/fire
His name is Chuck Hermann. While in route home from Sturgis Bike Week on I-90, he stopped at Wall Drug for a Sunday breakfast. He considered buying a souvenir T-shirt for $20, but instead prayed that God would find a better use for the money. He asked the Lord to direct him to a small country church, assuming the pastor would need the money to take his wife out to lunch.

While leaving Wall, South Dakota, he was encouraged to get off I-90 because of a powerful storm approaching from the south. He drove NE for 45 minutes and stopped at Community Evangelical Free Church outside of Philip, South Dakota, and enjoyed good preaching and singing with the small congregation. After the service, Pastor Gary greeted Chuck. When Chuck asked the pastor if he had lunch plans, he said he had more preaching to do but requested prayer for the mission team heading to Swaziland. Chuck asked who was going on the trip. Gary pointed to a woman heading out the door. Chuck approached this lady and said, “Gary said you are going to Swaziland. Please use this $20 to buy the kids some soccer balls and write ‘Jesus Loves You’ on them. We did this with great success for several orphanages in Brazil during our adoption process.”

The storm was fast approaching, so quickly Chuck jumped on his Firefighters For Christ Honda bike. “I had such a strong tailwind that I could see the trees whipping in the 60 mph wind, yet I had perfect peace on the bike,” said Chuck. “I was flooded with emotions as I sang the same hymns and praise songs we just sang in church. For more than thirty minutes, I rode this eerie tailwind with the heavy rain less than 1/4 mile behind me.”

**The Rest Of The Story**

Lee Ann said her sister, Marlene, was the recipient of Chuck’s money. They thought the $20 could better be used for food or clothing, but God continued to reveal His plan. When they arrived at the Swaziland school, they noticed dirt piled high on one end of the project. Some of the guys wanted to make it into a soccer field, even though they didn’t have the tools or the manpower to do the job. Right across the street, though, was a man with dirt moving equipment. He was from South Africa working for hire. He wasn’t interested in helping the guys but after hearing their pleas, he finally relented and worked without pay until the field was level and ready for play.

The next day, the sisters gave the $20 to one of the guys with a brief explanation of the encounter with Chuck. He then gave the money to the director of the project. Lee Ann said he had no idea where to get soccer balls, but took the money as he headed to find some things at a hardware store in the city. Low and behold, right next door, was a sporting goods store. It was earlier than it normally opened, but the owner was there and brought out two soccer balls.

“Guess what the price was?” said Lee Ann. “Twenty dollars! And guess what we wrote on the balls? JESUS LOVES YOU.”

Later, while the Mission Of Mercy Team circled in prayer to dedicate the field, one of the soccer balls was accidentally dropped or kicked. It landed smack dab in the center of the circle.

“This story is more than coincidence,” concluded Lee Ann. “It is more than logic or chance. It is a God thing...”

**HEARTS CHANGED BY JESUS!**

These Mongolian boys had heart surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Along with their mothers, they spent six weeks at Chuck and Pam Hermann’s home, where three of them invited Jesus into their hearts.
Mission Possible

Northern Ireland 2009 The fourth Mission Possible Northern Ireland has successfully been accomplished. FFC members from Germany, England, Canada and the USA worked side by side with NI firefighters in their stations, while others attended area FFC breakfasts and visited key department locations. Social events included an evening Fireproof showing, a Golf outing and a Quiz Night. The Lord ordained many divine appointments and brought salvation to a lady and a firefighter. “Many seeds were planted,” said Robert Blair, who directs FFC NI. Please pray that God’s message will truly be accepted and produce a harvest—thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times of what was sown. Matthew 13:23.

USA 2010
The Pasadena FD Chapter of Firefighters For Christ is hosting their first Mission Possible on March 15-24. FFC Chapter President, Victor Laveaga says, “We are praying for a season of spiritual fire that will ignite the hearts of many firefighters in Pasadena as well as those from surrounding departments. The focus of the mission will be on firefighters in firehouses as Northern Ireland firefighters will be assigned to stations in Pasadena. Other department visits will take place and the mission will culminate on March 24th with a big breakfast held at Pasadena’s famous Rose Bowl. Phil Scott, FFC NI, will be the keynote speaker. Don’t miss hearing his heart as he shares God’s Word.” Contact Victor Laveaga for reservations at VictorLaveaga@FirefightersForChrist.org.

Lake County, Illinois is one of the latest areas where a FFC Chapter has begun meeting. Members Lt. to rt. are Jim Pellitteri, Ron Reed, Brian Bandel, Scott Ward and John Rijhke. Last July, Brian Bandel wrote to FFC inquiring how he could get involved in the ministry. His desire is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through the fire service. He spent time praying and waiting on the Lord to direct him to men of good character, who walk with the Lord. The Lord brought seven men to his mind that fit the framework that is talked about in Acts and Timothy. Four firefighters agreed to be part of their leadership team: Brian Bandel, James Pellitteri, Scott Ward and Troy Laws. Pastor Ron Reed has agreed to lead discussions and worship. Great things the Lord has done and is doing in the Lake County, Illinois Chapter of Firefighters For Christ. They covet your prayers!

Albemarle Area FFC members Lt. to rt. from 1st row are Dale Smith, Scott Mahaindt, Brian Medlin, Allen Nixon, Brandon Whitlow, John DeCastillia, and Danny Ellinwood. “God is truly blessing us in North Carolina,” says Scott Mahaindt. “Nine guys came to our last meeting and three attended for the first time. The feedback we are getting is great. We can’t deny the power of prayer.” Scott traveled to Baltimore and, along with FDNY FFC members, manned FFC’s booth at Firehouse Expo.

“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.

“How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when brothers live together in harmony!”

Psalm 133:1
World Police & Fire Games

**Vancouver, B.C.**
World Game competitors were graciously welcomed into Carl and Julie Ens’ Surrey, Canadian home. Ten Hong Kong police officers said that FFC’s Barbeque was one of the highlights of their trip. Each person was given a FFC New Testament and the tract “Why” by Greg Laurie. FFC CD’s, Love Dare books, and FFC 9-11 Surrey Chapter DVD’s were also given away. Carl said, “Victor Laveaga shared why we are Firefighters For Christ.” Their prayer is that the officers will read their New Testaments so the Word of God can pierce their hearts. “It’s the power,” says Carl.

**New York City**
Some FFC members have already made hotel reservations for the 2011 Games. They don’t want to miss the opportunity to share Jesus with some of the 18,000 full-time firefighters and law enforcement personnel from 70 different countries, who are expected to compete in 65 sports. Ten days of competition and specially planned events, which respectfully coincide with the ten-year remembrance of 9-11, will take place August 26th through September 5th. Compete while wearing a FFC T-shirt and watch God open doors for you to share His Son, Jesus Christ.

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New Brother In Christ!

**On** September 11, 2009, Ethan Elizarraras asked Jesus into his heart. He and his family had a full day attending Pasadena’s FFC breakfast and then driving to Phoenix for another FFC remembrance in the evening. Chapter leader, Robert Hill, and his crew planned an awesome event. Outside, arriving guests thrilled at the sight of the American flag flying high from a Phoenix Fire Department aerial ladder. Kids, at the side of firefighters, held on to hoses, climbed on the apparatus and then listened as bagpipers opened the ceremony. Ethan heard Carlos Vasquez share what it was like to lose fifty of his FDNY brothers on 9/11. Carlos also spoke about his relationship with Jesus. At the close of the service, people responded to the gospel message. Ethan waited until he and John White had a personal conversation before he prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior. Afterwards, he told his mom that he knew Jesus loved him. Praise God for using the Phoenix Chapter of Firefighters For Christ to bring Ethan and others to faith in Jesus Christ. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

MISSION MEXICO

FFC Emergency Relief Team members spent eight days framing the second story of a men’s dorm at Calvary Chapel Bible College in Ensenada, Mexico. One of the college’s goals is to bring eight hundred students from all over Latin America to study the Word of God. Jesus says in Matthew 25:40, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

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FORWARD & ADDRESS CORRECTION

www.firefightersforchrist.org