



July 2010

## IGNITING FLAMES OF HOPE

*'And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the Lord, "and I will be its glory within.' -Zechariah 2:5*

### Bigger and Better

The last 18 months of Firewall have been nothing short of miraculous. In January of 2009, the closing of our outreach inside the Palma Nova Mobile Home Park was imminent and we had no major options available to us. As a matter of fact, one of the biggest friends and financial supporter of our ministry thought that we were dead as an organization. This was about the time that everyone started pulling out all the old clichés about it is darkest before the dawn and you have to have faith, but most of them did not believe their own words.

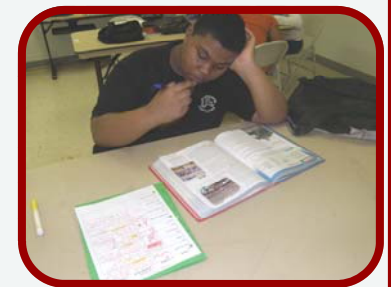
It would be dishonest to say that I didn't have any doubts, but I was confident that God's calling for Firewall Ministries had not changed. Then in February of last year, the door began to open like the proverbial Red Sea. It began with the Town of Davie leasing us the Orange Park Community Center and it took off from there. Calvary Chapel of Fort Lauderdale then prepared a property for another Firewall in Boca Raton shortly followed by our opening in Southwest Ranches for our third center.

Our staff grew and with God's guidance, we finely tuned our after-school program and even created two of our very own curriculum to teach Bible and servant leadership. This newfound focus enabled us to improve the quality of the mentoring and tutoring we provide to our students. Now, as we move into another school year, it seems like the growth will continue unabated. We expect to announce in the next few weeks the opening of two more centers, one in Coral Springs and another in Fort Lauderdale.

All of this is evidence that God not only was not through with Firewall Ministries, but has a huge plan for us to continue touching young lives through mentoring and discipling every day. Throughout the last



*Firewall Students  
Hanging Out*



*Busy Doing His  
Homework*



*Getting Ready to Play  
Some Ball*



*Doing Some Computer Homework*

couple of months we have sat down with many pastors and other community leaders to discuss the impact of opening a Firewall Center in their neighborhood. We have been amazed at how incredibly receptive everyone has been to our ministry. They all see the need to reach out to young lives at such a critical point in their development. We are thrilled that God has chosen Firewall Ministries to become an ever-growing presence in South Florida and beyond, changing the way after-school ministry is done.

### **T.H.I.N.K.**

This year, we have designed a curriculum with the purpose of teaching students the true meaning of servant leadership. As students are taken through the lives of five influential servant leaders, our goal is for them to use these real world examples as role models for the development of their character and decision-making ability.

The five essential practices of all servant leaders, which spell out the word THINK, promote change in behavior from the inside out. They are:

1. **Take Charge** –taking responsibility for all actions
2. **Have a Plan** –setting goals for the future and prioritizing
3. **Involve the Right People** –having healthy relationships and choosing the right influences
4. **Never Quit** –overcoming obstacles and finding solutions to problems
5. **Keep Giving Back** –developing a lifelong commitment to serving others

“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you *think*.” Romans 12:2

### **Bible**

We have also designed a curriculum based on the books of Genesis and Acts. Students are taken chapter by chapter and given an opportunity to involve all of their senses in each lesson.

This curriculum will provide students with a solid foundation of the creation as found in Genesis and will also show them how God began to work with His people at the beginning of the world. The portion on the Book of Acts seeks to help students build a healthy understanding of what the early church was like and how God led His disciples to carry out the mission that Jesus left for them to complete.

### **The Firewall Experience Tour**

We now have three centers with more on the way and we plan on having tours at all of them! At these 50-minute tours, you will have the opportunity to see, hear, and feel what we do on a daily basis to impact young lives. These tours will be offered at different times and locations starting on the week of August 30th. Please contact us to schedule your visit.



*Helping Each Other with Homework*



*Ready for Assembly*



**Andy and Janeth Fernandez**  
andy@firewallministries.org