



November 2008

IGNITING FLAMES OF HOPE

'And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the Lord, "and I will be it's glory within.'

Zechariah 2:5

Firewall is about so much more than tutoring and youth group. At its core it is about relationships. I have had the opportunity to visit many good programs that are designed to reach out to teenagers whether in churches or in the community yet none that I have observed have had the special drawing power of ours. I believe it is simply because we put young people first in everything that we do. This approach results in not only good programs and youth services, but in our having high expectations academically, socially, and spiritually for these teens. Many of our youth have been infected with the belief that they are limited in the success they can achieve in their lives. We teach and model that through Christ all things are possible.

In our goal of building ever deeper relationships with our youth we are always brainstorming on new ways to model the love of God to them. This month we have highlighted some of our most recent activities so that you can read about how some of our youth leaders go the extra mile to make an impact on young lives. Here Rachel and Cesia share their story:

Since the start of the school year, we have had the opportunity to get to know the high school girls of Firewall. Even though we see them on a daily basis through Firewall's tutoring program and youth services, we felt a need to develop stronger friendships with them by growing together in the knowledge of God. For the past month and a half, we have been reading the





Bible while doing fun activities together. We began with the book of Esther and concluded our study this past Saturday with the film "One Night with the King." We have all been growing together in Christ by encouraging and lifting each other up. We have been given the chance to plant seeds in the lives of these high school girls and it is amazing to watch them grow through all of the small things that we have been doing. Studying the Word at Barnes and Noble's, eating loads of cookies and ice cream, doing each other's nails, and enjoying each other's company during a movie at Pastor Andy's house are some of the activities that we have engaged in.

We hope and pray that in the upcoming months we are able to serve God through the meetings that are to come.

The days of backyard football will never die according to thirteen of our very own Firewall boys who played fearlessly against each other for the sole prize of bragging rights. Prior to the game, our very own Carlos Midence encouraged the twelve to believe and trust in God to grant us a confidence enabling one to excel. With



Youth Pastor Jorge

the shriek of the whistle, the game commenced and from the talent on both sides of the field, one automatically knew the outcome of this game would be close. From end zone to end zone each students' desire to win grew more intense before the final whistle was blown. The two teams were neck in neck, every score and every play was matched by the strategy of their opponent. As weariness settled, the two teams huddled in preparation for the last play. "Ready, set, hut" resounded in the abyss as the quarterback dropped back and searched for the

open receiver. The longing to be a champion exemplified through a relentless pursuit of either making the touchdown or resisting the winning score. After the crowning of the winner, I challenged the students to be passionate young men in pursuit of God's fulfilling purpose and destiny. It was an amazing turn out; each student was equipped with a little exercise physically and spiritually.

Keep praying and financially supporting us as the expansion of our ministry to multiple locations is on the horizon. We need the doors to completely open so that needy young people throughout South Florida can be impacted by education and the love of God.



Pastor Andy and Janeth Fernandez

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