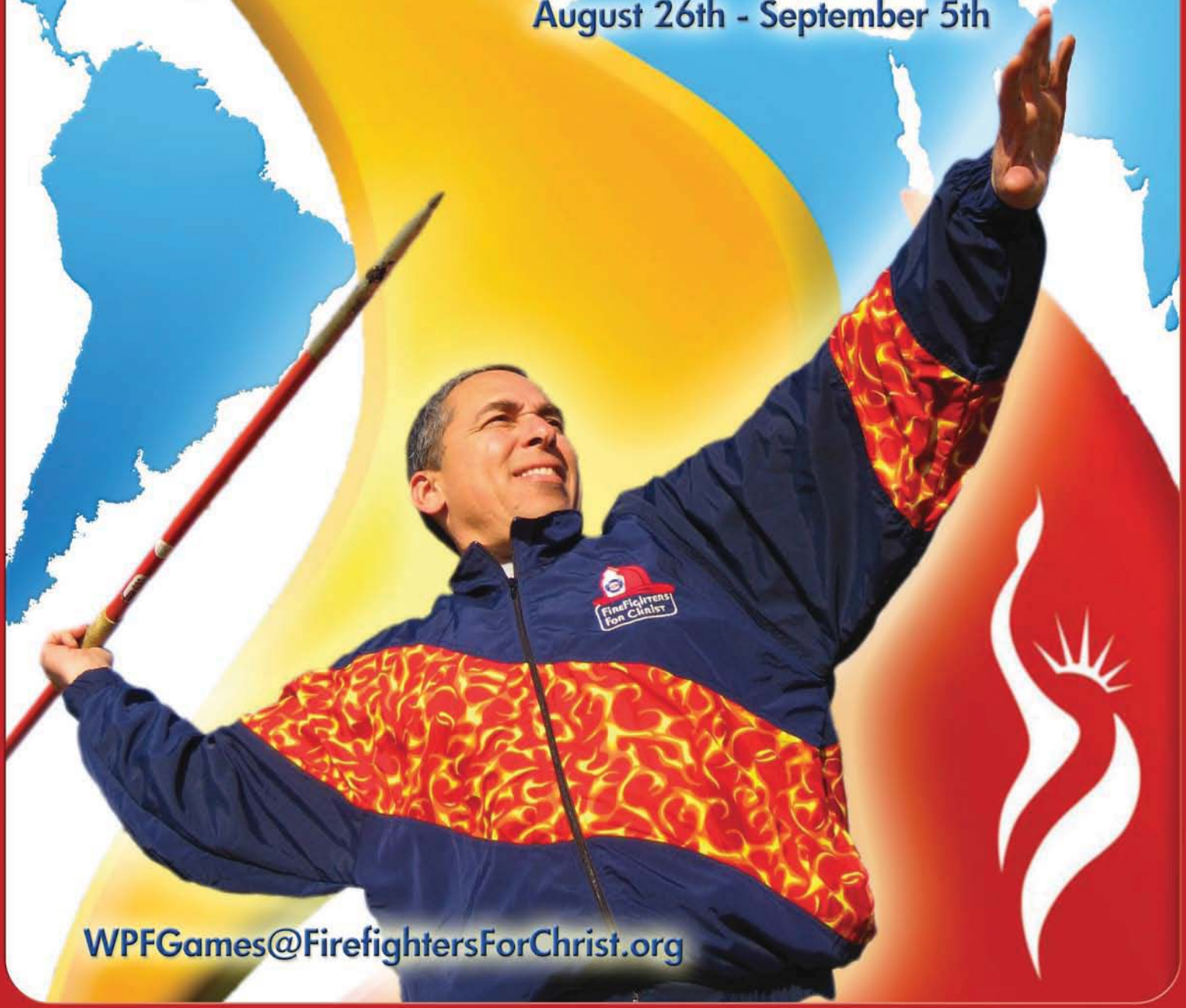
ENCOURAGING FIREFIGHTERS TO LIVE THEIR LIVES FOR JESUS CHRIST

FIREFIGHTERS FOR Christ

SPRING / SUMMER 2011

2011 NEW YORK
WORLD POLICE & FIRE GAMES

August 26th - September 5th



WPFGames@FirefightersForChrist.org

Firefighters Compete for the Gold

The World Police & Fire Games are coming to New York City from August 26 through September 5, 2011. The New York City Police Department, The New York City Fire Department, The Port Authority Police Department, and the New York City Department of Corrections are inviting you to experience their City and participate in the most memorable World Police & Fire Games ever.

Spread throughout the five Boroughs, the city that never sleeps will be the setting for the world's largest multi-sport, Olympic style event. As many as 15,000 full-time firefighters and law enforcement personnel from 70 different countries are expected to compete in 69 sports, which will respectfully coincide with the ten-year remembrance of September 11, 2001.

Members from Firefighters For Christ will be there too. Since the Games began in 1985, they have taken every opportunity to compete and share the Lord with competitors throughout the world. Their eye-catching uniforms won't be missed as they march in the opening ceremonies, fraternize with firefighters, police officers and participate in the sporting events. They will have thousands of FFC CD's in approximately 21 different languages to give away to competitors, their friends and families.

Firefighters For Christ will host an evening featuring well-known professional athletes, who will be giving their testimonies. Another highlight of the Games will be the New York City premier of Courageous, from the creators of Fireproof. John White, President of FFC, Intl., says, "God is bringing the world to our doorstep. We can't miss the opportunity to reflect the endurance, joy, discipline and perseverance made available through Christ."

The World Police & Fire Games are open to active and retired law enforcement and fire service personnel throughout the world. Athletes of all ages are welcome, as the categories run from Open: Age 18-29; Senior: Age 30-39; Master: Age 40-49; Grand Master: Age 50-59 and in Track & Field Grand Master ages are 50-75 plus! Go to http://2011wpfg.org/ and click on SPORTS to read specific information concerning each area of competition.

Please consider attending all or part of this event and participating with FFC members in one of the most significant outreach opportunities in the organization's history. Bring your families to experience the excitement and unique ministry opportunities in one of the most amazing cities in the world. Get acquainted with other FFC families and experience the joy of ministering together. Non-competitors, as well as competitors, are needed to minister at FFC's Expo Booth and at actual sporting events.

If you are interested in participating with Firefighters For Christ at the World Police and Fire Games in New York City, Aug. 26- Sept. 5, please send an e-mail to wpfgames@firefightersforchrist.org. Please include your phone number. You will be contacted with additional information to help you consider and pray about this ministry opportunity.

Special FFC World Games uniforms are available for competitors and non-competitors. The FFC World Games athletic uniform includes a high quality jacket, pants and shorts. The FFC logo is embroidered on the jacket. These will be worn by participants at the Opening Ceremonies and throughout the competition. The uniform is $150 and can be purchased by contacting FFC at wpfgames@firefightersforchrist.org. By wearing FFC's uniform, you will be a witness Jesus!

Mike and Diane Bell (Rancho Cucamonga, CA FFC) will be coordinating many of the logistical plans for this outreach and attending (and, yes, competing!) as well. They will be working on information regarding lodging, transportation (in NYC) and activities for the event. Check the FFC Intl. website at ***www.firefightersforchrist.org*** *for World Police & Fire Games information and updates.*

Let's be part of the Great Commission. Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations." Whether you can participate or not, your prayers for Firefighters For Christ's largest outreach will bear fruit that will last for all eternity! John 15:16

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FIREFIGHTERS FOR Christ

INTERNATIONAL WEEKEND

MARCH 31ST - APRIL 1ST, 2011

Held in conjunction with Hume Lake Christian Camps' Firefighters' Retreat April 1-3, 2011

FULL DETAILS AT
www.firefightersforchrist.org

Keynote Speaker:
ERIC SIMPSON

Ladies' Tea:
JANA ALAYRA

Musical Guest:
FAITH FIRST

REGISTRATION
INFORMATION AT
www.humelake.org/fire

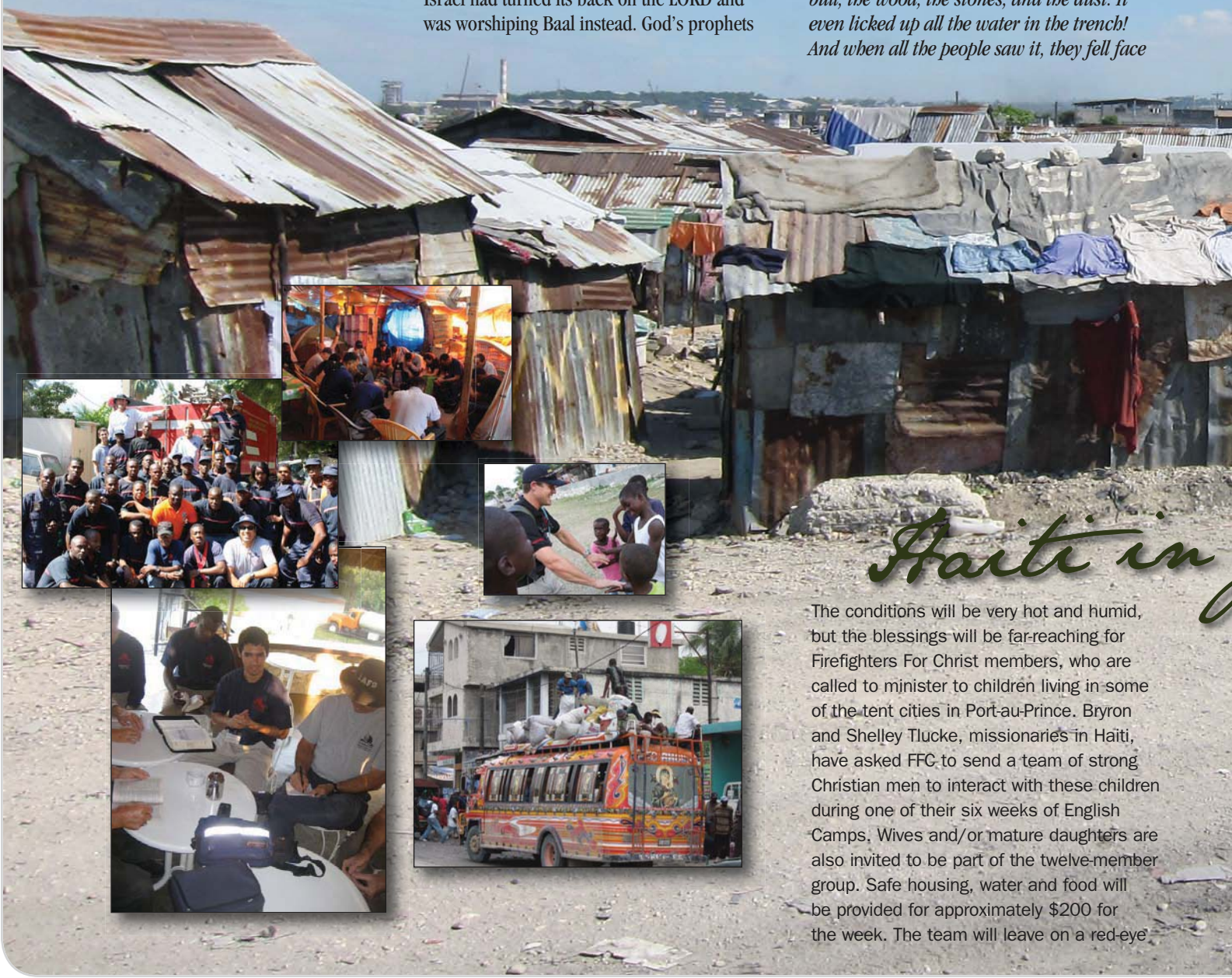
Will We Be Silent?

By Dan Rodrieguez

Firefighters For Christ, International, sent a total of five teams to Haiti in 2010, following the deadly earthquake that killed over 200,000 and left an estimated 1,000,000 homeless. Hunter Poulson, the 17-year-old son of Los Angeles Firefighter Craig Poulson, was part of our fifth team sent in November and made an interesting statement regarding his observation of the public transportation in Haiti.

"Many retired school buses from countries like the United States are often donated to developing countries to finish out their final years of service. In Haiti, they are given a custom paint job of bright primary colors in various patterns that seem to have a color scheme of the Rubik's Cube, that colorful puzzle so popular in the 1980's. Every bus, or miniature version of a bus called a Tap-tap, also has a slogan, either religious or secular, painted within the artwork, such as, "Thank you Jesus" or "Show me the money". These colorful transports also contain a similar painted image, such as the Virgin Mary, or perhaps a famous Hollywood celebrity. Buses and Tap-taps are EVERYWHERE and always PACKED with people. They are as much a cultural icon as they are a media outlet and seem to express the opinions of the people of Haiti. But their messages are often mixed, without a clear definition of where they stand, spiritually."

It was within this context, as Hunter was taking in all the sights and sounds of Haiti, that he made mention of the similarities of the spiritual state of Haiti and that of Israel during the reign of Ahab, as recorded in 1 Kings 18. Israel had turned its back on the LORD and was worshiping Baal instead. God's prophets had been persecuted and were in hiding, but the LORD had called Elijah to confront Ahab and the people of Israel. Verse 21,"Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, 'How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!' But the people were completely silent." The story continues with Elijah challenging the prophets of Baal to build an altar, place an offering on it, and call upon their god, Baal, to set fire to their offering. They did, and from morning to evening frantically called upon their god, with no reply. Elijah then built his altar and provided an offering, but first soaked it with water before praying to the LORD. Verse 38-39, *"Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! And when all the people saw it, they fell face*



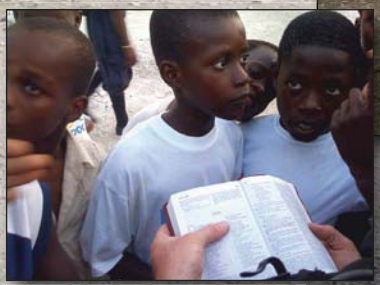
Haiti in

The conditions will be very hot and humid, but the blessings will be far-reaching for Firefighters For Christ members, who are called to minister to children living in some of the tent cities in Port-au-Prince. Bryron and Shelley Tlucke, missionaries in Haiti, have asked FFC to send a team of strong Christian men to interact with these children during one of their six weeks of English Camps. Wives and/or mature daughters are also invited to be part of the twelve-member group. Safe housing, water and food will be provided for approximately $200 for the week. The team will leave on a red-eye

down on the ground and cried out, 'The LORD – He is God! Yes, the LORD is God!'"

Although I've never seen fire flash down from heaven, we definitely saw miracles in Haiti. Daily, we experienced God's hand in leading, guiding, directing, and providing some amazing Divine Appointments: to meet our needs, the needs of others, or to present the Gospel. God's hand of protection never left our side. Our ministry was not only to the people of Haiti, but to some of the humanitarian aid workers from other parts of the world. People from Italy, France, Canada, and elsewhere came to Haiti to provide medical aid, and in doing so, were introduced to Firefighters For Christ. They learned of God's love, our motivating force, through word and deed. We were able to pray with many and witnessed God's healing hand on some very sick cholera patients. But perhaps the greatest miracle was to see the work God is doing in our lives, and to realize that in spite of all our many imperfections, He still chooses to use us. He allows us to be His hands and feet to reach out to those He so dearly loves.

If our lives were a living statement, and could be painted as the colorful transports in Haiti, what would our message be? And whose image would be contained within the artwork for all to see? And if challenged by a mighty prophet like Elijah to make a decision as to who we would serve, what would our reaction be? Would we remain silent? The final command of our Lord and Savior was to "… go and make disciples of all the nations,…" What is your part in the Great Commission? To pray, go, encourage, or support? The very mission of Firefighters For Christ is to encourage firefighters to live their lives for Jesus Christ, and many opportunities for ministry are provided within this organization to do just that. Is God calling you?



RN Kathy Kositchek, who was on FFC's Team #4, fell in love with the children she met in Haiti last April. She's excited that her husband, Tom, who is a school teacher, will be ministering with her in July.

July 2011

on the 23rd from LAX and meet others in Miami on the 24th and arrive in PAP at 9:45 AM. Camp begins on Monday at 9 AM and each day the children return to their tent homes at 4 PM. Other projects hopefully will be accomplished after the children leave. Because of the on-going medical needs, paramedics, nurses, and doctors will also be welcomed as team members.

Contact: *info@FirefightersForChrist.org.*
if you are interested in ministering with FFC in Haiti July 23-30, 2011.
It's an experience that will change your life.

Firefighters For Christ Members

Around the World

FIRE ENGINE GIVEN TO MONTERREY, MEXICO

Thanks to the heart of Jay Tracy and those he works with in Fresno, CA FD, a fire engine was transported to Mission, Texas. *Other generous donations helped make the trip possible. The guys who accompanied the rig were able to see other FFC members along the route and encourage them in their walk with the Lord. Chief Vicente Faust brought some of his firefighters to Mission, Texas to pick up their new engine and receive training from Jay. For two years FFC members have enjoyed great fellowship with their firefighter brothers from Monterrey.*

NEW FFC CHAPTER IN VISALIA, CA

A close-knit group of professional firefighters staff five stations in the city of Visalia, CA. *Victor Laveaga, Joe Lindaman and Pat Stilson were privileged to attend their first FFC breakfast meeting. Victor said their young energetic leaders are Dustin Hall, President; Brett Philpott, Vice-President; James Turnage, Secretary; and Derek Fricke, Treasurer. Firefighters from all agencies are invited to attend their breakfast the last Wednesday of every month at 9:00 AM at 900 S. Mooney Blvd, Visalia. Contact D.Hall@ci.visalia.ca.us for further information.*

FFC NORTHERN IRELAND

Phil Scott and Paddy Quinn were the first firefighters from FFC Northern Ireland to visit Uganda at the request of their Chief Fire Officer, Simon Peter Musoke. *Their invitation came through Pastor Paul Thomas, Chaplain to South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. They were asked to assist with training and equipment and their desire was to share not only professionally but also spiritually with the needs of the firefighters in Uganda. Please pray for future outreaches as the Lord powerfully leads FFC members in Northern Ireland.*

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

For twenty-six years Tracey White has been teaching Emergency First Aid Responder Courses at YWAM bases throughout the world. *This photo was taken at the opening protocol for YWAM's 50th anniversary celebration in Kona, Hawaii at the University of the Nations. Over 200 counties of the world were represented by someone carrying their flag. YWAM divided the world into 33 regions. A Polynesian canoe paddle, that had a plaque attached to it with the names of YWAM missionaries who pioneered those countries, preceded each of the region flags. The paddle Tracey carried was for the West Africa region. He chose to wear one of his FFC shirts for the anniversary celebration.*

GERMAN FIREFIGHTERS BEGIN NEW MINISTRY

From prayer meetings and breakfasts in different fire departments in Germany, Christliche Feuerwehr Vereinigung has recently been established. *Steffen Schwartz, a close friend of Firefighters For Christ, Intl., asks us to pray that God will use their Christian Firemen's Association in a mighty way. Pictured top left to right is their President, Bernd Kramp; Vice-President, Andreas Hoermann; Treasurer, Stefan Hafner; Board Member, Steffen Schwarz; and Secretary, Daniel Kloft. Their desire is to be a living testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ. Their purpose is to encourage firefighters to live their lives for Jesus Christ. They meet to pray and to grow through the study of God's Word. Please pray for God's protection and wisdom as these men move in the Spirit of the Lord in 2011!* ***http://www.cfv-ev.de/***

They Were Sent Out Two by Two...

by Dan Rodriguez

The Los Angeles Fire Department was founded in 1886, and, like many old fire departments, is steeped in tradition. One of those traditions was started by a fellow believer named Martin Bruflat, who began his career in 1897.

To get a sense of time, there's an old photo of him, after promoting to driver, which shows him holding the reins of a "two horsepower" hose cart —horses! He later retired as a captain, and upon his retirement, provided a Bible as a gift for all of the fire stations in the department. An inscription inside each Bible read:

"THIS BIBLE is presented to Engine Co. No._____ , Los Angeles Fire Department, on the _____ day of _____ , 19 __ , by a former member of your department, and fellow traveler to Eternity (Martin Bruflat, retired May 1, 1920) with hope and prayers that the precious truths recorded therein may find its way to the hearts of many, who are wise enough to stop in the material strife and turmoil of life to seek and find the 'Living Hope' which is most beneficial in life, and the only vehicle by which we may respond to the 'Last Call' with gladness and joy."

There was more in the inscription, including some recommendations on what to read.

Martin had the forethought to realize that the department would grow and put aside $1,000 to fund this outreach. He organized the "Bruflat Bible Committee" which presented each new fire station with a Bible. I heard someone once refer to him as the Gideon of the LAFD. This tradition continued for about 60 years before slowly fading away. Firefighters For Christ, International, was recently given the balance of this account, earmarked for Bible distribution, and resurrected this outreach. Many new stations have been built in Los Angeles since and were without this original "Bruflat Bible".

The Los Angeles chapter, supported by the International, took on this outreach of Bible distribution. Our department now includes 106 fire stations, within 16 battalions, and about 3,600 sworn members. An LAFD station is staffed with anywhere from four people to 21 on duty at a time. The Bible provided by FFC, International, is a nice leather-bound study Bible, custom-embossed with each fire station's number on it. Our goal was to send out teams of two from within each battalion and present this as a gift to each fire station. We introduced our FFC chapter via a DVD put together by a talented member of our team, gave a brief history of this tradition started by Martin Bruflat, and also presented each station with a DVD of the movie Fireproof.

This outreach was a huge success. It achieved far more than we had hoped for or imagined. The Word of God is now implanted within the library of each fire station. The original mission of our "fellow traveler to Eternity" (Martin Bruflat) continues, other believers in the firehouse were encouraged, and most of all, those who went were blessed. This seems to be God's hallmark of approval for every outreach He's ordained – that those who go are blessed more than those intended to be ministered to. Perhaps the best way to understand the experience of those who went is through their own words. Here are some email correspondences regarding this outreach:

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"I have to admit, I was a little apprehensive about the reception that we might run into when delivering the Bibles. All members were very open and receptive to the Bible,

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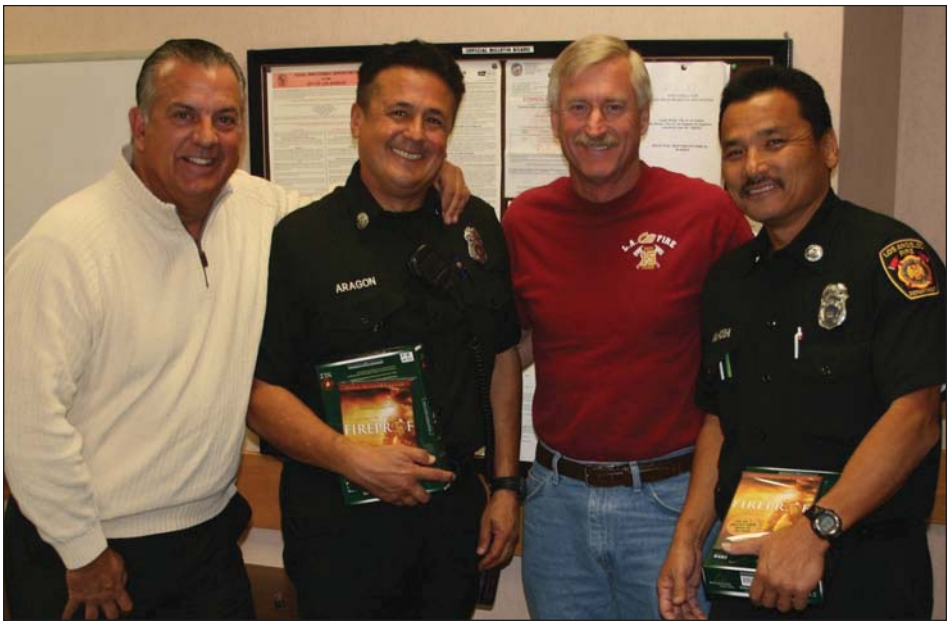

Lt. to rt.: *In the heart of Hollywood, CA, Steve Ruda and Chuck Hallman presented Captains Bob Aragon and Mark Akahoshi their Station #27 Bible and DVD copies of Fireproof.*

FireFighters For Christ

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They Were Sent Out Two by Two

Continued from Page 7

FFC, and the DVD. Oh me of little faith. Not one negative comment or question. God, I believe opened doors and hearts."

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"Every station we went to we were welcomed and were told in some cases that the members of the LAFD needed this organization. There was interest in when our meetings were and even several questions about the Christian Faith that were surprising. We had a true spirit of welcome in every house. The Holy Spirit opened all doors and the kitchen tables were filled with the guys and gals. The crews were very impressed with the quality of the Bible and its personal touch of their Station number on the cover. So we have planted the seeds and let's see what happens. Thanks for asking us to be involved in taking the Gospels to the field."

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"We were well received by all. There was initial apprehension on the part of some but by the time we finished everyone was engaged. Thank you for all that prayed and supported, and ventured out to bring God's love and message to our fellow firefighters."

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"We met for breakfast and prayed over the day's activities. Still nervous about being received, but it was in God's hands. And He delivered, no problems, warm welcomes…truly a Blessed day!!!"

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At the following monthly breakfast meeting, Rick Kirkwood spoke about his experience in this outreach. He gave a truly inspiring message that impacted many, including George Negrete, one of our department chaplains. George wrote an email about this breakfast and his trip home, as described in the following excerpts:

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"Wednesday, I was blessed to be in a room of brother firefighters in Christ. I was blessed to hear about the apparent success of the Bible distribution. I left breakfast very refreshed and inspired. Spurring one another on to love and good deeds are the words that come to mind. After breakfast, I decided to take a little detour and see if the "Spark of Love" program was up and running. The overseer of the program was voicing his concern for the program and (questioned his ability) to pull it off. Having that morning's testimony of boldness fresh in my mind I decided to pray for the firefighter and the program. You should have been there after the 'amen'. He was so blessed. God was glorified." George made two other stops on the way home to bless and encourage others. He continued, "I am thankful for the breakfast, for the fellowship and how the Lord used it to prompt me to greater boldness. Thanks."

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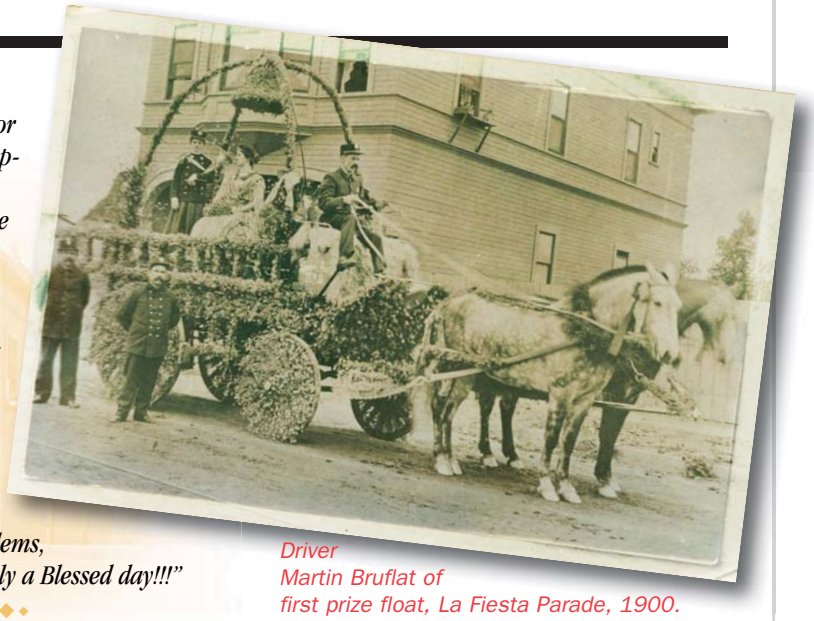
Lord, we thank You,
for empowering our messengers and
encouraging us in our faith.



Driver Martin Bruflat of first prize float, La Fiesta Parade, 1900.

In 1911, on far left is Captain Bruflat with Engine Company 13, LAFD.

ENCOURAGING FIREFIGHTERS TO LIVE THEIR LIVES FOR JESUS CHRIST!