



January 2008

## 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



Wow! This year's Firewall Christmas toy giveaway was by far the best ever as we had over 300 children come and choose their own gifts. The looks on their faces were precious and that of their appreciative parents even better.

I had the opportunity to speak with many of the people and children as they lined up for their turn in the toy room and some of the stories break your heart. One family in particular caught my attention as I spoke to the dad who has two children (5 & 12) and one on the way. His wife is not working and he has a construction job which is really slow right now. He has hardly worked over the last few weeks and this blessing of gifts for the children is a true Christmas miracle.

Another amazing aspect to this year's event was the cooperation and desire to serve displayed by our Firewall youth. We normally have our eight youth leaders and the adults perform much of the work during these events and the younger youth take a more passive role. However for this event we had 22 additional youth take a very active role that included passing out toys and candy, signing up the people as they arrived, and even crowd control. We were so proud of them and it really shows how our discipleship approach to ministry is truly working. Many of these teens would love to have had some of the available toys and candy but they chose to first be a servant. God is moving in their lives and I know that it is worth all the hard work when you see their spiritual growth reflected in their actions..



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## Christmas Party

The after school Christmas party was awesome as over 40 youth had a great time with the food, games, and especially the gifts we were able to provide thanks to the generosity of Calvary Sawgrass. Every student received a gift card and we had drawings for stuffed animals, a football, a bicycle, a skateboard, and even a fishing pole. They were truly surprised and grateful. We were also able on Saturday the 22nd to take most of the youth to local stores so they could spend their gift cards. The ministry van and two more vehicles were loaded down and it was great to see the kids spend their money on whatever their heart desired.

Additionally, thanks to the Stacy Foundation we were able to supply six teenaged girls and their siblings with some extra items this Christmas. These gifts included basic needs like clothes and shoes, but also some hair and bath items for the girls so they could especially beautiful this year. Lifting up their self esteem and showing them how much God and others love them is a huge key in their choosing the right path for their lives. The Stacy Foundation also generously donated a new Wii system with games and a bunch of new sports equipment for our center so we have better tools to reward and give healthy alternatives to the neighborhood youth. We would like to thank all of our donors and partners for helping make this a Christmas to remember.



**Pastor Ron & Hannah Britain**  
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### Student Corner (Rachel)

Ever since I knew how to talk, I experienced what it was like to live in a home centered on Jesus Christ. Being "pastor's daughter," it hasn't always been easy to live up to the high expectations of those in the ministry. There have been some obstacles along the way and a few mistakes made, but in the end the challenges

have been overcome and my relationship with Jesus is stronger than ever. Around June of 2007, I began playing the keyboard for the church band. My life took a different direction following that decision, but changed even more when I became involved in the Firewall leadership program. Even though it is hard work, the benefits and rewards that result from serving surpass all of the sacrifices made and difficulties that have come my way. Playing in the worship band, mentoring the teens, and cleaning the church are a few of the many areas of service that I have committed to. I never thought that serving the Lord would so fulfilling and I look forward to being a part of Firewall for years to come.

### Thank You

We would like to thank all of you who financially support and pray for this ministry. May God bless you for all that you do for His Kingdom