

April 2006



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Be A Part of the Solution

The Willy and Jessica Story

Our ministry in Palma Nova began on July 10, 2003 with a youth fun and games night focused on the 12-18 year-old age group. There was one special 8-year-old girl however who came to the teen meeting with a 13-year-old friend. Her friend had the responsibility of taking care of her. It was apparent at our first meeting that pre-teen Marcie was wise well beyond her years.

We felt for Marcie and continued to include her in our meetings. Over time she was accepted by the teenagers as a type of mascot.

Marcie began coming to church regularly. She also brought her uncle's

girlfriend Jessica with their two young children to the meetings. Jessica faithfully attended for a couple of months and as the trust



factor grew, she began to reveal to Janeth and I the major problem in their lives: Heroin. Her live-in boyfriend Willy was hooked and could not hold down a decent job. They were struggling to keep their family and lives together.

I asked 'what can we do'? Jessica responded that she hoped to get him into a substance abuse program where

he could gather strength and faith so that their future could be filled with love and hope, not pain and despair.

I approached Willy, who only came to church once during that time, about going to the Calvary House program where he could live and work on the Chapel grounds. I explained he would have to commit to the program for a year. Willy said he was near the end of his rope and wanted to try. I spoke to the program director and he explained that Willy needed to be clean for 21 days before they could take him. So initially we planned to place

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him in a local Detox Facility for the first few days.

Unfortunately, the day before entering the Detox, Willy got arrested in a drug sting in Miami. He had already spent a year in jail a few years earlier and it looked like he was destined to do another year now. He called me from prison hoping and praying that I could do something for him.

John Ramseur, Calvary House director, explained in a letter that Willy could still enter the free program for the full year and 22 days after he was arrested, I went down to the Miami-Dade courthouse and pleaded with the judge at his hearing to give him one more chance.

Well, we serve the God of second chances and the judge had mercy and released Willy to me. Willy's heart was ready to repent because he had seen the destruction that alcohol and drugs had

done to his family, friends, and himself. We dropped him off in Pompano to begin his quest for the complete physical and spiritual healing that only a miracle working God can do.

Days later we found out that Jessica had a similar habit and by the grace of God through an aunt in New York, she was placed in the Walter Hoving Rehab Center for Women. There she was freed from her addiction while Willy began to attain his personal victory through the power of God here in Fort Lauderdale.

As each progressed successfully through their programs, they called me in September and said they wanted to get married to complete their relationship before God. Jessica got a weekend pass, flew home, and during lunchtime at the small Calvary of Fort Lauderdale chapel with Willy's

fellow cooks as witnesses, I was able to perform their wedding. It was a great honor.

As of February they both completed their programs. Willy has been hired as a permanent employee of Calvary Chapel and Jessica returned home to set up housekeeping in an apartment near the church.

This is a great story of what our presence in Palma Nova together with strong local partnership with churches can achieve if we all work together. This family now wants their testimony to inspire and motivate others as proof to what can happen when you let God and loving people make an impact in your life.

Firewall Mission Statement

Firewall Ministries exists to share the gospel with everyone we meet, not only through our words, but especially through our deeds. Jesus said, "...by their fruit you will recognize them."
Matthew 7:20