



October 2009

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 Banquet!

Firewall's annual fundraising banquet took place this past week and it was an absolute success! The banquet was a reflection of the awesome things God is doing, and we are incredibly excited to see what lies ahead.

Our keynote speaker was Pastor Bob Coy of Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale. He got the crowd going by encouraging everyone to become an "Andy fan." By this he meant becoming a partner with our ministry to impact this generation in powerful ways. He also effectively relayed this message by sharing the inspiring story of Jonathan and his armor bearer who overcame an overwhelming enemy through faith, perseverance, and wisdom. These words encouraged all of us to become armor bearers to this generation by helping provide young people with the faith they need in God and themselves to reach their greatest potential. Through Firewall's mentoring program, we give youth the confidence they need to make wise choices and persevere through the daily struggles of life. We must be willing to fight alongside this generation so they can in turn change their homes, schools, communities, and ultimately their world for the better.

Some of the other highlights of the evening included the Torres family, who took the stage to tell of Firewall's impact on their lives. The Torres students, Mandy and Evelyn, have been in the program for three years and have not only bettered their grades, but they have improved their relationships with God and their family. Their father, Jose, expressed his appreciation for Firewall because he has seen a change in his daughters, both academically and socially. The transformation of the Torres family is also spiritual, as they have chosen to place God at the center of their lives.





Particularly powerful was the story told by our youngest speaker of the night, 8th grader Katelynn Briggs. She shared how she used to hang out with the wrong crowd while she lived in Pompano Beach, Florida. Recently, five teenage boys set another teenager on fire, giving him third degree burns on over two-thirds of his body. Katelynn was very close friends with two of those boys and is thankful to God for placing Firewall in her life as she could easily have been one of the crowd that committed this tragic act.

Rhoda Gawlowski, an Assistant Principal of Indian Ridge Middle School emphasized how Firewall has developed great relationships with the school and its teachers. She spoke glowingly of our role as mentors to students and testified about the transformation she has personally witnessed in the behavior and academics of different Firewall students over the years. She has been an educator for the last 42 years and expects to become a volunteer with Firewall when she retires in the near future.



Jose Rodriguez, or better known as “Barney,” spoke about how Firewall has greatly changed his life and encouraged him to make better choices in school and in his relationships with others. Barney is a senior at Western High School and plans to graduate, finish two years at Broward College, and later become a firefighter. Barney is one of our best examples of servant leadership. He exemplifies this attitude every day, as he is always ready and willing to work for the cause of Firewall and of his fellow students. As he spoke, he expressed his desire to be a mentor to other people, just like Firewall took the time to mentor him. Giving back is what

Firewall Ministries is all about.

Additional speakers included high school students Amber McCloskey and Lydia Edouard, who opened and closed the evening with a few personal words about Firewall’s impact on their lives as well as words of prayer.

The evening was truly awesome as we had the largest turnout ever and are now well on our way to reaching our goal of mentoring 200 students on a daily basis by the end of this academic year! We thank all of you that have supported us and make Firewall possible for the youth of South Florida.

Southwest Ranches Opens!



Firewall Ministries seeks to partner with churches and other organizations to make its mission to transform this generation of youth possible. In an answer to prayer, we have combined our efforts with New Hope Assembly of God in Southwest Ranches, enabling our newest center to hold its first parent orientation this past Monday! Keep us in prayer as we launch

this brand new center and impact the lives of the students in yet another neighborhood! Thank you to all who faithfully support us and may God continue to bless you richly!



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