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I am 14 year veteran of the fire service and have always felt the hand of God in my life but had never truly experienced God's power until the birth of my second son Andrew. Andrew was born with a very severe heart condition and during the first five years of his life underwent several heart surgeries to repair his defective heart.

In January 2000, at the age of five, and after a short noncardiac related illness, Andrew suffered a massive heart attack, my wife Dena, and then nine-year-old son, Justin, and I were told by the doctors that, due to Andrew's severe heart damage, his chances of survival were very grave. We were given the option of comfort care (which meant make him comfortable and certainly he would have died within a matter of a few days) or attempt a heart transplant. One of the leading hospitals in the Southeast for heart surgeries was contacted and their reply was that Andrew's condition was too severe for them to help him. Andrew was then medically flown from Orlando to Children's Hospital of Boston and nationally listed for a new heart.

Miraculously, Andrew received his new heart 13 hours later. After relocating to the Boston area for nearly six months for weekly checkups, we returned to Orlando. Today, Andrew is a very healthy and active ten-year-old and enjoys family vacations, attending church, playing with matchbox cars, and riding his bike. Andrew also participates in the U.S. Transplant Games for organ transplant recipients held every two years throughout the country and hosted by the National Kidney Foundation.

Throughout Andrew's sickness, many of my fellow firefighters offered endless amounts of prayers and support. One firefighter and his family even setup a trust fund at one of the local banks in the area. Another firefighter paid for airline tickets to travel to Boston, and yet another firefighter spearheaded a collection of money from throughout the department.

This experience, as a whole, lead me to recommit myself and my family to a relationship with Jesus Christ. With so much free time on my hands at the hospital, I began to study for the engineer driver's promotional exam and in January of 2001 I was promoted from firefighter to engineer/driver. I was assigned to Orange County Fire Rescue Department Station 51. The station is equipped with a rescue, an engine, a ladder truck, and a battalion chief. For the past few years, Station 51 has been in the top 20 of the busiest firehouses in the nation. We all work very well together and consider ourselves the best at what we do. We train regularly, and therefore, when the alarm sounds, we are at the top of our game.

We love what we do and take pride in being among the busiest, but it does sometimes come with a toll. Multiple calls that keep us up all night, high levels of stress, and meals that take hours to eat are just the beginning. We, like many other busy firehouses throughout the nation have the unfortunate opportunity to respond to many alarms that involve domestic violence, serious injury, death due to auto accidents, and fires that displace families.

Initially, when I was assigned to that station, I thought it was punishment for some combination of bad things that I had done or perhaps one big-bad thing that I had done. I would later come to realize that my assignment was orchestrated by God.

My assignment to Station 51 has taught me about servant hood and helping those who sometimes don't have the know-how or desire to help themselves. My assignment to Station 51 has definitely given me a perspective on life and death, which I would not have received from any other profession. It is this perspective that lead me to believe that God's Hand was guiding me toward a more active leadership role in ministry in my fire department. In late 2004, I founded Badges of Faith Ministries. Initially, the purpose of the nondenominational ministry was to pray for and support other firefighters in the same situation as he once was, but was expanded to minister to the men and women of the fire service through support, evangelism, and outreach. The ministry is also involved in community outreach programs such as Shop with a Firefighter, Feeding the Homeless, Habitat for Humanity Building, taking underprivileged kids to NBA games, and many others.

In Early 2005, I received a vision to create a devotional CD targeted towards firefighters. This CD would be a tool – like many firefighters use daily — to reach and teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The CD puts you on the scene of fires and emergency medical calls. Each track has a story, a scripture related to the story, and a prayer. The last track is an open invitation to those seeking to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. After prayer, fasting, and crazy abiding faith, the C.D. Devotions for Professions was birthed.

C.D. Devotions for Firefighters & Paramedics is the first of many devotions for professions. It is truly a testimony of God's guidance in the life of one who chose to be obedient to God's voice over disobedience.

In addition to being a lieutenant, I also serve as a chaplain's assistant for my fire department. My desire is to encourage others; no matter what profession or influence to seek a closer and personal walk with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. I also schedule several appearances throughout the country speaking at different events.

C.D. Devotions for Professions donates a percentage of its proceeds to the following nonprofit organizations: Fellowship of Christian Firefighters, National Kidney Foundation, Make a Wish Foundation, and The NDCC Youth Building Fund.

You can listen to a demo of a track on the C.D. on our web site at: www.cddevotionsprof.com; Twenty percent of the proceeds from purchases made through FCFI are donated to the FCFI. Please mention FCFI when you contact me at 407-359-1434.