



THE
ENCOURAGER

Let us
never
forget



“Let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:25

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President/Missionary: Gay Reynolds
Editor: Sue Reynolds

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Hello: My name is Scott Pruiksm. I'm in my twenty-fifth year of the fire service. The first department that I joined was the Wyckoff Fire Department Co #2. My dad was an officer and rose to the rank of deputy chief. I married in the late eighties and moved to a community called Prospect Park. The day after I was sworn-in to the fire department we had a working structure fire. We had three members on the first due engine and one member following us on the second engine. It was a lot different serving in this department because we were mutual aid to the City of Paterson. I gained much experience in the several years serving in this department. My wife and I purchased our dream home in Midland Park, a beautiful town in Bergen County, NJ. We wanted to raise our three children up in this town. I've been a member of the Midland Park Volunteer Fire Department for over 15 years now. They're a great group of men and are involved with many other events in town besides serving in the fire service.



Scott Pruiksm
New Jersey Chapter Vice President

Six years ago I was approached to serve on the council in my town working with the mayor and five other council members. I'm still involved with the town in this area and my duties are the liaison to the police department, fire department, and office of emergency management. During this time I worked in a family restaurant full time and also had a small lawn maintenance business. I felt that it was important for my wife to stay at home and to raise the three children. During this time I was a Christian going to church and going through the motions. I felt like a mouse or a rat running in one of those wheels. My life from the outside looked great. I had beautiful a wife, a great house, a great job, three beautiful children, served the town and the fire department and even went to church every Sunday. But something was wrong. I did not have God first in my life.

God has a specific order and my order was not right. I'd put earthly things and possessions first. I struggled with areas in my life that are common to men and are not pleasing to God. Consequently, my life started to fall apart. I went through a difficult divorce. I didn't understand, but yet understood that you cannot serve both God and man. God was pruning my life and eventually I had no where else to go but towards Him. Praise God!!!

One New Years Eve I was home alone and I cried out to God for help. I was at the end. He was waiting. He gave to me His peace and His love: The Peace that passes all understanding. God protected me when I turned and walked with Him. Years have gone past now after my divorce and much healing. God has given me the experience of the divorce to help others who are struggling. I sure wish that I had the movie **Fireproof** years ago. It might have

made a difference. I am where I am now and I see how God protected me when I put Him first in the order that He wants for us. When I had to move out of my house, God provided me with a home just eight houses away with a wonderful Christian landlord. When my children would visit or if there was a problem and they needed to talk we could walk to each others homes. The fire service is a great family to me. I received phone calls and support. They are a great family. My church also helped me in my walk. I plugged into Sunday school classes, small groups and a great men's accountability and support group. The major change, however, was when I accepted Jesus Christ as my **PERSONAL**

Lord and Savior and was baptized. He is real to me now and is not a **Religion but a Relationship**. I want to serve Him first.

In my new life, I felt a deep calling to serve the Lord. I had a new purpose and wanted to be used by God. I left my family business and started on my journey in search how I fit into God's plan. When you make yourself available to God, or when God frees you up to be used, watch out. I ended up in Mexico with my nine year old son on a mission trip to help build a school for people living in a garbage dump in Reynosa with *Touch the World Missions*. Then another trip to Mexico opened up for me with *Straight Path Ministries*. This trip had me serving in an orphanage and visiting a children's prison in Mexico. The following year I was asked to go to China and help teach English in a summer camp. The following year, I was asked to go to Albania with a ministry called *Gospel Trick Shot*. I have been there two times, the second to assist in the hiring of an outreach team. Last year in 2007, I was again in China helping at the summer camp. This is where I visited the firehouse and introduced the concept of "fire chaplain" to the Chinese fire commander. I was told it was not allowed however, it was very important. Please pray for these firefighter brothers of ours that they might hear the good news. On each and every step God has, and is, preparing me for service to Him. **GOD ALWAYS PROVIDES** — in ways that are amazing. He is gracious.

I still see my children often and love them very much. I have a great network of brothers who can help me, and I them in our times of need. I am involved with the fire department and still serve on the council of my town. I am active in the Fellowship of Christian Firefighters North Jersey Chapter. God has given to me a concept called *Interlocking Arms*. It is a network that bridges the gap between local OEMs and the Faith Based Resources. God, in His plan, showed me the gaps and in His wisdom gave me insight to help build stronger communities in my area but also across the

Fellowship of Christian Firefighters
INTERNATIONAL

nation. The *InterlockingArms* came from the book of Nehemiah. In Nehemiah they rebuilt the walls community by community. God is in the restoration business.

We need the right order in our lives.

- Love God,
- Love others.
- Serve God Serve others.

We as firefighters are always serving but who are we serving. I can tell you personally when you serve God first and your life is in the order of His plan He can take you to places that are unimaginable. We are all works in progress.

If you need information on building a stronger community please visit www.interlockingarms.net



"He must become greater; I must become less" John 3:30

MEMORIAL BIBLES
HONOR A LOVED ONE BY PLACING A MEMORIAL BIBLE IN A STATION
OR SEND IT TO A FAMILY OR FRIEND OF A LOVED ONE.
MEMORIAL BIBLES CAN BE PLACED FOR \$25.00 EACH.
A SPECIAL INSERT AND LETTER ACCOMPANIES THE BIBLES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING APRIL: 23, 2009

FCFI SECOND ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER: APRIL 24, 2009
GUEST SPEAKER: JIM BONSON

The board meeting is open to all and provides you with an opportunity to see how God is using FCFI. The dinner is followed by an award presentation program complete with music and a speaker. Food, a fantastic program, and time to fellowship with firefighters from across the nation — you won't want to miss this event.

CONFERENCES: 2009

- ☿ Fire Rescue East, Daytona, FL: Jan 28-31
- ☿ Firehouse World, San Diego, CA: Feb. 15-19
- ☿ FDIC, Indianapolis, IN: April 20-25
- ☿ I-Chiefs, Dallas, TX: August 27-29

PRAYER CHAIN

*Want to be apart of the prayer chain?
Send your requests to Mike Gurr at*

FCFINTPRAYER@YAHOO.COM

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International Board and Directors Present at 2008 Annual Meeting

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