

TWO YEARS AGO I was living happily in Southern California when God made it clear to me it was time to move to Frisco, Texas. As I prepared for this move, people kept pointing out to me all of the many strengths that Frisco has to offer. It was fun to hear about the 250 restaurants in a five-mile radius. The population and housing growth was off the charts. What a great deal it is to have the biggest mall in North Texas right down the road. Frisco has every possible form of entertainment. It has sports teams and gyms and playing fields. We are a short drive from Dallas and the Cow-boys, Stars, Rangers as well as every form of the arts imaginable. People boasted about the weather, the shopping and the job opportunities. I was amazed at the new big brick houses and thought the cost of living was a huge plus. You can do anything or get anything your heart desires in less than 30 minutes (except in rush hour!) These strengths of Frisco were the ones that were mentioned over and over. All of these things are true and are a nice bonus to living in North Texas; however, these past two years have shown me what the strength of Frisco truly is.

Last week I was in the waiting area of a local hospital's Critical Care Unit (CCU). I was there caring for a woman whose boyfriend had had a massive heart attack the day before. He was brain dead upon arrival at the hospital and this whole day was spent determining whether or not to continue life support. This couple had only been together six months. They both have been through a lot of struggles and hardships in the past, but things had been different lately. They told me all the time how they have never been happier and how they brought out the

best in each other. It eventually became time to discontinue life support. This was a crazy and painful situation, yet this was where I saw the true strength of Frisco.

Truly the strength of Frisco is not in its location or economy. The strength of Frisco is in its people and relationships. It is the strength of love, care and faith that binds us together.

Family member after family member stopped by and stayed for hours during these days. They shared hugs and tears as well as one of the greatest gifts of all;

just being there. There was one friend who was in that hospital the whole time. She got there before any of the family arrived and stayed long after the family was gone. She was there to comfort with her presence, her love and the truth that God is bigger than any situation or circumstance. Truly the strength of Frisco is not in its location or economy. The strength of Frisco is in its people and relationships. It is the strength of love, care and faith that binds families and friends together through whatever each day brings.

In that same CCU at that same time was another family whose mother was very sick. One of the daughters is on the Praise Team at our church. I was very warmly greeted by this large family. Now, this family has a varied religious spectrum. Most of the family was Baptist, then there were a few Lutherans, some were non-denominational and some weren't sure what they were. This was a fun and strong family who,

The Strength of Frisco

By Mark Schaefer

