



March 2014 Newsletter

www.100hour.org

www.familyintegrity.org



Special Training Held at Oxford, FL

Joseph Maher, seated with his wife Deborah in photo above, was so excited about the FIT program that he traveled 350 miles one-way in January to be trained at Santa Rosa Beach. Having an extensive background in education, he led his own training session with the assistance of President Don Pratt at Joe's home church, Oxford Assembly of God. Turnout was sparse but the potential was great because Joe and his church have every intention of ministering at the numerous prison facilities at his back door. These include the very large Coleman Federal prison as well as the expanding Lowell state prison. Sumter state prison and several jails are also close by.

Standing behind Joe is his pastor, Pastor Derrel Strickland. Pastor Strickland fully supports the Mahers' vision and plans. Behind Mrs. Maher is Robert Chipp, a visitor from Chariton, Iowa. Bob is taking the program back to his church. In fact, his church already had plans for implementing FIT and asked him to get trained while on he was on a visit to Florida. It was gratifying to see such enthusiasm and commitment from this great group of people.

FIT Anger Dynamics Course Approved by the 12th Circuit Court of Florida

FIT headquarters has been the scene of continuous Thursday night classes since 2008. In that time, a number of clients have used our courses to regain custody of children and to meet various other court and probation requirements. FIT works with the local Department of Children and Families' agency in providing courses, especially anger, parenting, and dating and marriage. The 12th Circuit Court (Manatee, Sarasota, and Desoto counties) recently approved our Anger Dynamics course for use in sentencing.



The Thursday Night "Character Development" Program at Bradenton features courses which are used to meet rehabilitation requirements or just to improve the quality of life. Shown here is a January graduation from the Anger Dynamics course conducted by Bill Hassett.

Tom Walter, of Calvary Chapel of Spring Hill, FL is working with Board Member Rosemary LaLuz to offer a similar program at his church. They plan to apply to the District 5 Circuit court for approvals and referrals similar to the arrangement in effect at the District 12 court. A special training session has already been held in the area to recruit additional FIT volunteers. District 5 services Citrus, Lake, Marion, and Sumter counties.

FIT Seeks Approval in other Counties

8300 and Counting!

In the last six years, FIT has printed and presented a total of 8300 course certificates. These certificates have been earned in prisons, jails, recovery houses, Salvation Army, Rescue Missions, re-entry community centers such as the one described above, a Sunday School class for teens, a high school, and a few churches. Classes have been held throughout Florida and across the country.



What makes us different?

We are a fellowship of ministry leaders who network and desire to be as effective as possible. We are practical and well aware at the enormous task before us - and are still willing to do what it takes to help those around us. We are cross-denominational and work with many different types of churches. Our courses are of high quality and have proven to be effective. We have many volunteers - hundreds of them! Our only paid employee is a part-time office manager who we contract from her church. All other volunteers do not get paid and FIT does not normally pay for their expenses.

We are there to enhance existing ministries - to make them more effective. We are super-observant of the requests of our host institutions, making sure we observe all rules and authorities. When asked to leave, we leave. We discipline our own ranks to make sure that our "servant nature" is apparent to all. We are financially very conservative, always pay our bills, and have a reserve fund as a backup.