



June 2015 Newsletter

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Six Baptized as a result of FIT Classes



Further proving that our classes are effective in transforming lives, six clients followed up their newly-found faith with water baptism in two different baptismal services, one in May and one in June. Shown at left is Kenny Busch who came to us in August angry and as a self-proclaimed atheist. Since then, he has attended continuously, completed four different courses, brought in his wife, had their marriage restored, brought in his mother-in-law, and went through FIT training and is now a facilitator. The couple also attends church with their children. Kenny says he wants to give back to those who have suffered like he has. He understands.

Spiritual growth and connection to church services is a vital part of the FIT program, though no one is coerced to do anything and all are welcome whether they embrace the Christian faith or not. For those that want to connect to Christ, FIT facilitators will show them the way. The baptisms described here were voluntary and conducted outside of the regular meeting time.

Fred DeMouey and Ed White, shown at right, also provide similar opportunities at the Polk Correctional Institution in Polk City, FL. In a recent meeting, Ed asked in a very natural way if anyone wanted to commit to Christ, and everyone in his class said "yes". Again, no one was pressured or put on the spot to do this.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Many Faces of FIT

Our leaders are involved in many different ministries. President Don Pratt is also Care Pastor at Journey Assembly of God in Bradenton, FL. He and Office Manager Ellie Larson often visit with and write to inmates in jails and prisons. They also appear in court to support clients who have cases. Both are chaplains with the IFOC program.

Fred and Ed, mentioned previously, work with the Hope Now ministry in Lakeland, FL. They both are being trained to be client representatives with the Florida State Board of Parole.

As indicated in the new partnership with Jim Russo Ministries, we are a part of something bigger than just ourselves. Our program enhances other programs and vice versa. Other ministries sometimes use us for a part of their program and use other sources for the rest.

We do not brag about our "success rate" compared to other programs. We are all in this together.

JIM RUSSO MINISTRY PARTNERS WITH FIT



The Jim Russo Ministry of Bradenton is partnering with FIT in a perfect fit of ministries helping one another. Under a new agreement, FIT is busing in residents to the FIT office on Thursday nights where our facilitators provide our life-skills program as part of the center's educational program, further enhancing resident rehabilitation. This keeps our group of facilitators busy on Thursday nights and provides a needed service to meet the Russo Ministries' mission.

The Ministry is a recovery center for those who are facing a hard time due to being recently released or finding themselves homeless or destitute.

From Beverly Shatterly in the Florida Panhandle: "I contacted Mark Shipman in Blackwater. We are in the process of working out a schedule for starting a FIT class there. This could happen in July. We need to coordinate the time with any available FIT trained facilitators. Please keep this in prayer." Below is her recent Dating and Marriage graduation class at Jackson Correctional, Malone, FL. She adds "William DeJooode was our 100 hour graduate. It is bittersweet when they finish the complete 100 hour training. We really bond and the class becomes a close community. They are always so grateful for the opportunity to be able to express their inner most thoughts without feeling judged or criticized. All of the group members will be continuing with us for our Financial Success from Scratch class." Beverly is the only lady in the photo (second from right in the back row).



JUST ADDED! FIT Training on Saturday, July 25, at Branford, FL 9 AM - 3 PM. See website at www.familyintegrity.org for details and registration.



FACILITATORS NEEDED for the Lake City area (where I-75 and I-10 cross) for four prisons.

Founder Ed White will be doing two trainings soon - the one mentioned above and another one inside the prison walls. Call Ed at 863.670.9712 for details