

August 2017 Newsletter

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New Leaders from the Tampa, FL area join the FIT Team



Pictured above are the students from our class in the East Tampa area on July 22 of this year. Fred DeMouey and Ed White taught the class. Lunch was provided by the class on location. This was the third class in the last month: one in Bartow, FL, Ocala, FL, and this one. Two other sessions will take place in Orlando and Bradenton on August fifth. You may check the web site for other training locations. We have certified over 1,200 leaders in the last ten years in the FIT material. If you wish a training in your area please contact Dr. Pratt in our office and he can set it up for you.

-reported by Ed White

2017 FUNDRAISER ... Sep 7, 7AM-7PM

Donate Early...and get it matched

by the **Baycross Christian Family Foundation**. The Foundation will provide up to \$5,000 in matching funds for gifts received **before or during** the campaign. These gifts will be applied to our initial press runs of our new 2017 courses: the revised *Handling Loss and Grief* course by Dr. Don Pratt and the *Change of Heart* course by Dr. Joseph Sheehan.

Donate online at familyintegrity.org or mail check to

FIT, 5017 37th St E Bradenton, Fl 34203.

Check our website to see if matching funds are still available.

Anyone out there who could sponsor an additional matching challenge grant?

Seven More Trained in Orlando, FL



This is the second training session in three months for the growing ministry team in the Orlando area. Both were set up by Tammy Fisher, at left. Tammy is a chaplain in the Orange County Jail.

Here is her report:

"It's exciting to have a program that can be facilitated so easily by volunteers. Since we began the *Anger Dynamics* class a few months ago, close to 20 inmates have completed 10 hours in that course. One of the graduates told me "learning and being aware of different ways to approach conflicts" helped her to walk

away from a heated discussion with an inmate that would have landed her in lock-down. Many other graduates and attendees have enjoyed this down to earth FIT program."

"The recent Certification Class held in Orlando Aug 12, brought on another 7 new facilitators, four of which will be facilitating classes inside jail. The other facilitators will be holding classes at local substance abuse programs. We are truly blessed to have this wonderful program available to us and look forward to completing many more hours of classroom time. For us, it may help some of those we minister to avoid prison, reconciling with their families, and being solid dependable members of their community. Thanks FIT!"

-Rev. Tammy Fisher, Inside Out Jail Ministries, Founder/CEO

A word from Board Member Beverly Shatterly on good stewardship...

We at FIT are trying to responsibly steward the funds that people donate to our ministry. I like to give each client their own book if I can raise enough money to cover the cost. It seems that the clients are happy that they can study in the dorms. I usually make it a requirement to do each lesson and check to see if they are actually doing the lessons. If they seem to be slacking, I emphasize that it's importance to effective class participation. Some have hangups that carry over from school, where they were embarrassed or have a lack of confidence in



their reading and writing abilities. This also gives me a chance to praise their efforts and give them a sense of accomplishment when they complete the homework.

Sometimes they have legitimate excuses that they don't have a pencil or pen. So I get a memo and provide them with the tools for their study. This shows them we are serious about them finishing the lessons and that we understand their needs. Then I can joke that now they are without excuse when homework gets behind. On occasion when our funds run low and we don't have enough books for them to have their own copy, we pass out the books and give them a composition book to write in with a pen or pencil. Then use the books again for another class or two.

Then there are those classes outside the prison system that seem to have a difficulty keeping clients for the duration of the book. On those occasions it worked best for us to keep the books and only give them out during the class and verbally tell them what homework was due.

Finally, please remember to give to our 2017 fundraiser. It is so vitally important in our efforts of continuing to give the best to the hungry clients who will certainly succeed and be changed by the power of God. It is for them that we pray and believe that they will grow in the grace of our Lord Jesus.