

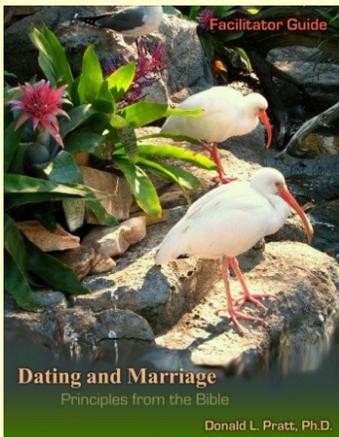


## Susan Sabino is 42<sup>nd</sup> Person to Complete the New “Dating and Marriage” Unit

Shown at left are Facilitator Don Batterman and Susan. Susan received her certificate on December 16 at Bradenton, FL at the Thursday Night Program held at Journey Church. She started coming on August 12 and has not missed a night since. Units completed include Personal Insight, Parenting 101, and Dating and Marriage.

The Dating and Marriage Unit became available in February and was written by FIT President, Dr. Don Pratt. It qualifies for “Area 5: Relationships” credit toward the FIT Complete Program Certificate. To graduate, participants must complete 100 contact hours of small-group interaction under the guidance of a FIT-trained facilitator. Also, at least one unit must be completed from each of the focus areas:

FOCUS AREA		UNIT		
1	PARENTING	13	Parenting 101	5 Lessons
		14	Godly Parenting	13 Lessons
2	PERSONAL INTEGRITY	2	Personal Insight	9 Lessons
3	DECISION MAKING	3	Free to Grow	12 Lessons
4	ANGER MANAGEMENT	4	Anger	9 Lessons
5	RELATIONSHIPS	5	Loss and Grief	9 Lessons
		51	Dating and Marriage	9 Lessons
6	ECONOMICS	6	Financial Recovery	7 Lessons



**Comments** from FIT facilitator Beverly Shatterly: When we start a program the men do not want to see it end. At Okaloosa CI the men said “we are sorrowful because we know when we finish this reentry curriculum we won't have the church family atmosphere anymore. When we come to this class, we feel a part of something. We have never been free to open up in this way before”. Most of these men have been to at least 4 studies in the set of FIT books. We have just finished the Dating and Marriage class at Jackson Work Camp. I thought at first that the men would resent or not pay attention to a woman facilitating a class like this. As we progressed I realized that they were able to get feedback from a woman's perspective and quite a few eyes began to see how important it is to listen to and try to understand their mate. All the men were very respectful and never said anything out of the way. They all agreed at the end to honor their wives by staying pure from outside influences or future mates by signing the commitment of staying pure till marriage and only marry or date anyone who can share the faith that God has given them. *That was a beautiful moment.*

## We Get Mail

from Facilitator Beverly Shatterly



The chaplain would use us much more if we had the workers. They have made a mandate to have 100 hours in the new [FIT] initiative but they do not have the structure in place to do all that. They desperately need volunteers. That is why **so many doors are open to us**, more than we can fulfill. I knew that when I went to take this class to teach the FIT Curriculum. Okaloosa CI would like us to teach a second class but as of yet we don't have the volunteers.

from a facilitator reacting to Robert's testimony in the September 2010 Newsletter:



**Great newsletter.** I truly enjoyed reading it and being able to empathize with the young gentleman and with you. I remember what it was like when I got out of the county jail. I had done 6 months in there, came out with no job, no money, **no** place to stay, no friends, no family to speak of, no transportation, unpaid fines, current fines and 5 years felony probation. You know once you get into the system it is so hard to get out. But God saw me through all of that and here I am sitting here writing this to you. I didn't have God in my life then but He never left me. Thank you Lord. Thank God for our trials and our tribulations. They have made me who I am today.

**This is why I have such a passion for substance abuse addicts.** I was addicted to crack cocaine for 14 years and have been drug free for 15 years. Back then I never thought that would be possible but look at God. **He** made it all possible for me -- I couldn't do it.

Satan tried to hold me down by always making me remember my past. He would place doubt in my mind, (i.e. you know you can't do that, your daughter doesn't trust you or love you, you will lose that job too, etc.) With forgiveness from God, and finally being able to forgive myself because of His forgiveness, I don't have to let my past mistakes hold me down anymore. My past is my past. All I can say now is, "I've been there, done that, and I am not going back, with the help of the Lord". Praise the Lord! My favorite scripture is Philippians 4: 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

One thing I had to realize in my mind was that it would take a while, (this took years) for me to restore the trust back from those that I had lied to for so many years and not let that bother me. I just had to show them I meant what I said by my actions. Once again, my word is my bond! People do trust me now. If I say I am going to do something, I do it. Commitment. Satan's job is to kill, steal and destroy. Well, he stole, over those 14 years addicted, everything from me that meant the world to me. He stole my child, my job as an officer at a bank for 12 1/2 years, (I worked at a bank but turned into a thief) my word, (I would lie to anyone or about anything to get my next fix), my home, my self esteem and my self-worth. I hated myself and life and didn't want to live anymore. He tried to take my life through suicide, that didn't work. He tried to take my mind through a stroke, but that didn't work. I lost my memory for 9 months but the Holy Spirit brings back to remembrance what I need to know. He stole my child for 9 years but God put her back in my life when He knew I was ready to be her Mom again and our relationship is better now than it has even been. I have 3 beautiful grand children who I simply adore. But look at my life now!!!

What Satan stole from me, God has redeemed and restored back to me better than it ever was before. **I am happier now with my life, in helping others** that are going through the same things that I experienced, than I have ever been before. HOPE!!! **Anything is possible through Christ. He did it for me, and I thought I was useless, not fit for living.** I enjoy waking up in the morning, thanking God for a new day, telling Him I am available to Him to use as His vessel and waiting to see what He brings my way for that day for his Glory.