



## **FIT TRAINS NEW LEADERS AT THE SALVATION ARMY IN PANAMA CITY, FL**

This Training at Panama City Salvation Army on July 18th featured a very enthusiastic group. They seemed to catch the vision of what FIT is doing. Bill St. John became so excited from a previous training that he promoted our work in his home area. That led to the group deciding to sponsor a training themselves. As they put it, it was even better than expected. They had a keen desire to become more effective in the various places they are serving. They said that the principles learned would enhance all areas of their ministry. There were twelve who completed the training conducted by FIT Trainers Beverly Shatterly and Lorna Hendrix. Lorna's husband and newly-trained facilitator, Jim Hendrix, was a great help in setting up the classroom and getting all the materials loaded up for home. -Beverly Shatterly

**[Editor's Note]** The reason we feature these training sessions so much is that these new folks represent much of the excitement and future promise for our passion and mission. Facilitators throughout the country appreciate the new happenings and locations and what people are saying.

FIT is successful for some very good reasons. We have a very good program that accurately recognizes and deals with the deep-seated needs of our clients. By-and-large, the folks we work with are dealing with multiple life-skills problems, are initially distrustful of our helping them, and have been in destructive patterns for long periods of time. In short, the length of time and commitment of our lessons and facilitator dedication is absolutely necessary for the long-term changes we hope to see. This is just being realistic. As all of our seasoned facilitators know, dealing with our clients and their challenges is not the only obstacle to be overcome. We need to be invited in, put up with changes in personnel and policies, and sometimes work with detention officers that do not share our philosophy and do not want us there. Our "hats are off" to all those wonderful people who so show forth the love of Christ in oftentimes thankless situations! And welcome to FIT, graduates from the Salvation Army of Panama City!

## FIT OPENS NEW OFFICE IN BRADENTON, FL - new address 5017 37<sup>th</sup> ST E, 34203



After several years of running out of the house of President Don Pratt, the FIT office has now been relocated to space generously provided by Don's home church. This includes an office area (upper left), three walk-in storage closets (example, upper right), and a production area (bottom left). FIT's curriculum is a combination of two publishers - Living Free/Turning Point of Chattanooga, Tennessee and FIT of Bradenton, FL. FIT prints its own materials in-house. FIT began in 2005 when Founder Ed White set up a prison committee when he was men's director of his denomination's district office in Lakeland, FL. Fueled by a \$25,000 grant, prisoners in local jails and prisons were provided the books for the initial courses. After a few

years, the funds ran out and FIT nearly closed. Don Pratt took over office operations and in 2010, Florida Integrity Training was incorporated as a separate 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Last year contributions and income built back up to the \$25,000 level, but this was not enough to fund an office. In the past several years, FIT has been able to provide free course materials and customized certificates for nearly all of its 6879 graduates due to the great generosity of FIT facilitators and board members who pay dues, contribute out of their own pockets, and work and travel for nothing.