



March 2010 Newsletter

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FIT Program Expands into the Florida Panhandle

Okaloosa Correctional Institution (State Prison) Now Offers the Florida Integrity Training (FIT) Program

Beverly Shatterly leads the team of local volunteer facilitators for the reentry *Florida Integrity Training (FIT)* Program at Okaloosa Correctional Institution in North Florida. This is the first time our program has been offered there. She also



facilitates at the nearby Graceville Correctional Institution and coordinates our efforts in the Panhandle.

Now serving as Prison Ministry Director at Christian International Family Church in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, Beverly has been involved in prison ministry since 1996. She was intensively trained through Faith Training Center, which is a school of ministry with an emphasis on world missions for the purpose of preparing Christians to serve as missionaries, pastors, evangelists, teachers and mission workers around the world. Beverly is very happy to be a part of the reentry program. She also directs FIT Curriculum classes in her church on Sunday nights. The following

is the description that she gives of our program:

This voluntary, faith-based rehabilitation program is designed to help reduce recidivism and produce fulfilled and productive citizens. There are 6 topic areas with materials ranging from 5-18 lessons each including: Parenting, Personal Integrity, Decision Making, Anger Management, Relationships and Economics.

In exploring anger, for example, students learn that our anger can be either a positive or a negative force in our life and how we can develop healthy ways of expressing our emotions without resorting to violent outbursts. We as a "People of Faith" can use our personal faith to move into a "deeper life" that God wants for us and use our emotions positively to help us identify what is going wrong and correct it.

Giving and receiving of respect is also a crucial element of the training. Everyone in the group is treated with respect and no one is targeted as having a particular kind of problem. The principles dealt with are broad enough that it includes the things that are common to all of us so that the whole group can learn something valuable.

Graceville Correctional Institution (State Prison) Produces its First FIT Graduates

After just starting our program just three months ago, Graceville CI has distinguished itself by already producing graduates in *Handling Loss and Grief*, *Financial Recovery*, and *Anger Management*. This was possible because of the work of facilitators Beverly Shatterly, Janet Armbruster, Ken Kitchens, and Jonathon Hunt. Ken Kitchens and Jonathon Hunt are chaplains at the facility. Graceville CI is also located in the Florida Panhandle.

Your Contributions at Work: Success at Graceville

The success at Graceville CI has been due to the contributions of time and money by several individuals. The founder of this ministry, Ed White, started it off by training, at his own expense, the first group of facilitators in November, 2009. His office supplied the financial support for the first sets of books for the prisoners to use. Beverly Shatterly organized a follow-up training group in December, led by President Don Pratt. Her church ordered more books. The FIT ministry then donated more materials for the efforts at Graceville. Three of FIT's 6 focus areas were presented simultaneously. As of the time of this report, the chaplains have requested \$6,000 more in materials so that they can offer all the curricular units to 100 inmates at the same time. Unfortunately, only \$500 was available for this purpose.

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If you would like to help us do more in situations like this, you may donate online and get an immediate receipt at www.100hour.org or send a check by mail. While online, notice our new streamlined format designed to be easier to follow and more useful. Florida Integrity Training Inc. is designated by the IRS as a 501.c.3 public charity and donations are tax deductible. Statements are available at the end of each calendar year for accumulated contributions of \$200 or more.

Recidivism Rate Reduced at Sarasota County Jail



Robin Rogari, Chaplain's Assistant, at the Sarasota County Jail and Glory Banstetter, FIT facilitator, recently ran an analysis of the success of the FIT program with regard to the "recidivism rate" there. The recidivism rate is the rate at which offenders return. They found that only 18% of the individuals who graduated from one or more of the units presented within the last two years had been rearrested and returned to the facility. This compares to an estimated 80% for the general population

Robin and Glory compared every individual on our list...with the jail's list.

based on the best information available. Though not a complete or comprehensive study, these findings do reflect the kind of results that policymakers are asking for. While reoffending is much more complex than a single number indicates, we are sure that the sacrifices of our volunteers and donors are paying off. Even without the study, we know that our program is working. The evidence is in our "graduates" who we continue to mentor and follow up on, some of whom have become leaders in our organization.

Robin and Glory compared the 385 individuals on our list who had been released with the jail's list of returning offenders.