

Nine receive Complete “100 Hour” Program Certificates at Zephyrhills Correctional Institution

On May 1, 2016, nine inmates at the Zephyrhills Correctional Institution received their 100-hour completion certificates during the morning chapel service. The chapel service ceremony was set up by Chaplain **Jon Clanton** and led by FIT facilitators **Mike Zarle** and **Terry Case**. Also involved were FIT Board President **Don Pratt**, Board Treasurer **Fred DeMouey**, FIT Founder **Ed White**, and facilitator **Paulus van Beek**.

The ceremony began with the recognition of **Brian Moore** as a “peer” facilitator. This distinction is only awarded to an inmate who has met strict requirements and allows them to conduct our sessions if the local authorities allow it. FIT Founder and Trainer, **Ed White**, presented Brian’s Leader Training Certificate and letter of recognition. To qualify as a peer facilitator, an inmate must complete six required courses, have a minimum of 100 hours of group interaction, be trained by an Official FIT Trainer, receive the recommendation of the local chaplain and prison officials, and be approved by the FIT Board of Directors. Training and using peer facilitators is not new at ZCI. FIT Trainer and Board Member **Helen Campbell** had previously provided the Leader Training for peer facilitators James Hutchinson and Armondo Leon. They had received their 100 hour training under the direction of ZCI program director **Onalee Weber**.

Don Pratt, Mike Zarle, and Terry Case presented the complete program certificates to **Dennis Callahan, Jeffrey Ferris, James Hart, Robert Holmes, Stephen Langa, Wilson Lopez-Vazquez, Micky McGuire, Michael Parrino, and Ryan Spalding**. In all, thirty-eight ZCI inmates have completed the entire 100-hour program in the last five years and 391 have received course completion certificates since 2010. With the addition of Brian Moore to the facilitator staff, plans are in the works to increase FIT offerings even more. Congratulations to all the staff and inmates who have made all this possible.

ROBIN VORE TRAINED IN BRADENTON

Robin Vore of Lakeland, FL traveled to Bradenton to receive her training to become officially recognized as a FIT facilitator. Robin is Director of Operations for Zoe’s Journey in Lakeland. Zoe’s Journey is a recovery house for women, and that center has been using the FIT curriculum since 2011. Robin joins several others there currently presenting the program. FIT has issued 338 course certificates at Zoe’s Journey.



Robin Vore (right) with FIT Trainer Ellie Larson (left)

We are Family

One nice thing about working for the Lord is that we all work together for the same purpose - to please God, and we don't care who gets the credit. Then there is the principle of the "ninety and nine" where we do whatever it takes to restore those who have lost their way.

Robert Williams, second from left in the checked shirt, is a person we have been able to reach and help toward a more rewarding life. Robert grew up in church but did not really take his faith seriously until he wound up in prison.

Some people need a shock to turn their lives around and Robert got that when he was arrested. He vowed that he would never go down that road again. Eventually he ended up at Sumter Correctional Institution and our facilitator and chaplain at the institution, John Hope, led him to the Lord in 2012.

Robert was released this year and chose to go into the Jim Russo Ministries residential program for further preparation instead of going back to his home town. One of our peer



Shown here, left to right, are Pastor Don Carter, Robert Williams, FIT facilitator and board member Suzanne Wilson, fellow Jim Russo resident Chad Hubbard, and FIT President Don Pratt.

facilitators at Sumter CI had recommended the facility to him.

Now Robert automatically gets FIT courses because Jim Russo sends its residents to FIT headquarters on Thursday nights for two hours of our courses.

Next Leader Training

Lakeland, FL June 4

Status of Current FIT Projects

Project	Status
Finish new <i>Change of Heart</i> Course-book. Print 1,500 books in initial run	Course is now 1/3 complete. There are no funds for the initial run. \$8,000 needed.
Finish <i>Dating and Marriage</i> course upgrade. This is the last of the course books to be printed in a professional format. Print 800 copies	Revision and field testing 95% complete. \$5,000 required and \$5,000 grant from an anonymous donor received!
Translate Course Books into Spanish.	Original estimate \$2,000. We now have a volunteer who is doing it for free, working on one book at a time.
Reimburse FIT representatives to travel across the country to train and establish ministries. Currently there are no funds available.	Need \$3,000
Purchase/lease business software for a more professional operation.	Need \$1,450