



"100-Hour" Complete Curriculum Graduates



Dating and Marriage Graduates

TRIPLE GRADUATION CEREMONY AT CENTRAL FLORIDA RECEPTION CENTER-EAST UNIT (STATE PRISON), ORLANDO



Anger Management Graduates



CFRC Staff and FIT Board Members

On October 31, three FIT Board Members traveled to Orlando for the first-ever FIT complete-program graduation ceremony at the Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC)-East Unit. CFRC is one of the largest state prisons in Florida. This was made possible through the efforts of our facilitator Angela Anderson (front row on right in photo above), her assistant Kayla Perron (center) Darlene Lumpkin, CFRC Assistant Warden (left), and Chaplain John Hope (back on right). FIT Board members in the back row, left-to-right are Ed White, Founder of FIT, Fred DeMouey, FIT Treasurer, and Don Pratt, FIT President and Dean.

Complete-Program graduates (top picture on left) are Robert Anderson, Danny Brailsford, Rafael DeJesus, Christopher Eckstein, Eduardo Filomeno, and Kent Smith.

Feedback from the FIT Program at CFRC

Hi, I wanted to let you know that my classes have been going very well, especially the Dating & Marriage class. The men are so engaged and willing to share their thoughts (whether in agreement or in opposition) during class. It is sometimes difficult to introduce these Biblical concepts to those who do not have a relationship with Christ, but they are willing to listen and some are even considering what changes need to be made in their own marriages and dating relationships. I can only give thanks to God for His transforming power.

As you know, I have been facilitating the FIT classes at CFRC for the past year and a half. For some of the men, the Dating & Marriage course is the final area required for them to complete the entire 100-hour curriculum. The person in charge of programs (Darlene Lumpkin) suggested that we have a special graduation ceremony and we both wanted to invite you [President Pratt] to attend.

I wanted to inform you of the intern who joined me about 2 weeks ago. Her name is Kayla, she is a student at UCF and she aspires to become a criminal defense attorney. She asked Ms. Lumpkin if she could observe a prison class and that is when Ms. Lumpkin suggested my class to her. In only 2 weeks, Kayla told me that she is learning so much and she has grown spiritually. She appreciates the fact that the lessons are faith-based because she wants to get closer to God. Isn't that a blessing?

Angela Anderson, FIT Facilitator

My name is Kayla Perron. For the past couple months I have been observing and co-facilitating a Florida Integrity Training class on Dating and Marriage at the Central Florida Reception Center. I have been under the guidance of a remarkable woman, Angela Anderson, who dedicates her life to pre-release programs that help ease societal reintegration and reduce retrogression. As a pre-law college student, I originally wanted to partake in a volunteer program at a local prison simply in order to familiarize myself with inmates and their environment. I never expected to receive as much from this experience as I have.

I'll admit that I was slightly intimidated going into my first class. Many of my friends and family thought I was crazy for wanting to spend my Mondays with convicts and that I wouldn't enjoy it. Just as I assumed, they were wrong. I was hopeful before I began that the men would not be impudent and that at least some of them would truly want to better themselves through this course. My expectations were surpassed, to say the least. These men are among the most reverent, insightful people I have met in my life. They are all so grateful not only to be able to spend a few hours a week in a hospitable environment, but to learn and progress in their relationships with God and with others.

My very first day one man said that he was thankful to Angela and to me for giving up our time to help them and for treating them "like human beings". I, too, have grown spiritually through my participation in this class. Often times I have joked with Angela and we have each alluded that perhaps we are the ones gaining the most from this experience. I have always considered myself a Christian, but it was not until I began these classes that I truly was able to connect with God. I have used the principles we discuss with our class and implemented them in my own life. I feel I have become a stronger person, built steadfast relationships, and reconnected myself to God and my faith. I owe many thanks to Angela for being a dear friend and a spiritual mentor. She is a faithful wind that has steered me in the right direction and helped me to move forward in my life under the grace of God. I also must thank Donald Pratt for the sheer inspiration I have found from his FIT program and from the personal pieces of his life that he shares with all of us through these courses. Both he and Angela are sincerely extraordinary people who serve a great and altruistic purpose. Lastly, I am grateful to the men in our Dating and Marriage class. They are the most inspirational to me because they exemplify everything I believe in. They have proven that anybody can better himself or herself against any odds. They all persevere each day through this impediment in their life and accept full responsibility for their actions; past, present, and future.

I plan to continue to strengthen and maintain my relationship with God as well as my participation in the FIT program. I will be moving to Massachusetts in the near future, but I will definitely proceed to volunteer in other correctional facilities and hopefully bring the Florida Integrity Training curriculum to the Northeast.

Kayla Perron