



October 2012 Newsletter

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DOUBLE GRADUATION CEREMONY AT ZEPHYRHILLS (FL) CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

For the second time in the last two years, FIT has had the privilege of conducting a graduation ceremony at Zephyrhills Correctional for completion of its "100 hour" program. This involves the separate completions of at least six courses chosen from a list of eight. All these courses are facilitated in small-group format for maximum effectiveness. Participants are guided through the course materials while they learn to solve their own problems and relate to their Christian faith. Life issues that are covered include parenting, personal insight, decision-making from the Christian perspective, anger management, handling loss and grief, dating and marriage, and personal

Complete Program Graduation Front: Louis Platt Assistant Warden of Programs; Onalee Weber, facilitator; Helen Campbell, FIT Board of Directors; Jeffrev Trovillion, Warden. Back row, the graduates!

money management. FIT's "100 hour course" is approved by the Florida Department of Corrections as meeting the requirements of the 100-hour transition course as mandated for every person leaving the state prison system.

Taking participants through the program one course at a time for two hours per week, as in this case, takes about a year. This shows how much just a few persons can accomplish over time. Though Ms. Weber and Rev. Campbell were responsible for most of the instruction over the past two years, this was a team effort. Without the help of the prison authorities, our volunteers, and our donors who supplied the materials, these graduations would have never taken place. Thank you to all who had a part. That is what FIT is all about. Other facilitators were Peter Ruggirello and Alyce Martinez.



"Free to Grow" Course Graduation

All told, there have been 151 course graduations at Zephyrhills since April 19, 2010. Our hope and prayer is that the 2,616 contact hours logged will produce changed lives and new directions for our clients.

RECENT LEADER TRAINING

We are proud of our training staff. They all give selflessly and generously of their time to provide a quality experience. Without an influx of new volunteers, continuing the ministry would be impossible. Our trainers are themselves volunteers and, unless hosts provide for expenses, they receive no financial compensation for their work or travel. Here are a few reports from various training sessions.

AUGUST 18, 2012 – BROOKSVILLE, FL – GRACE WORLD CHURCH - ELENA BOZZI

From a participant:

I learned so much today. I was not expecting to get as excited as I got. My spirit was ready to jump out me and shout. Wow! Not once, but twice EXCITED!!! Elena Bozzi is just an amazing teacher, if only I knew this last year or years ago... I believe I and think that I have found my calling here with the lessons learned and taught. I almost started to cry with the love that was here. Again, I grew in maturity. Today, never too old to learn. I want to say thank you Mama Elena. Love you and God bless you. -Janet Brunetti

SEPTMEBER 15, 2012 – BRADENTON, FL – JOURNEY CHURCH – DON PRATT



From trainer and President, Don Pratt:

It is not the quantity; it is the quality that counts. All the trainees of our session are now active in the program. Two are facilitating and co-facilitating on a regular basis. From left to right are Bill Hassett, Cathy Sasser, Don Pratt, and Bill Andrews.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2012 – LAKELAND, FL – LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES - HELEN CAMPBELL

From our trainer and board member, Helen Campbell:

Just wanted to let you know how Saturday went at Lighthouse Ministries. All 6 on the registration list were there. Everything went well. I did get some pictures and will send as soon as I can get them downloaded. We had lots of good participation and discussions. So, just wanted to let you know all 6 on the registration should be sent their certificates. Steve Turbeville was a wonderful host. He participated in all we did. As his staff thought through how they will be implementing things, he was very good to explain how things would be done at Lighthouse. This was very helpful. Appreciated his guidance on their specific questions.