

September 2011 Newsletter

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17 NEW RHODE ISLAND VOLUNTEERS JOIN FIT FAMILY

On September 10, FIT Trainer **ELENA BOZZI** (in front of the Bible) conducted the day-long course to equip volunteers to be FIT volunteers. This was held at the famous Zion Gospel Temple in East Providence, RI, sponsor of the historic Zion Bible Institute. Elena is also known for doing FIT trainings in the Brooksville, FL area. Another one is in the planning stage for the Palm Beach area in 2012.

This is the second FIT RI training. **DON BATTERMAN** had previously conducted a session at another local church.

FIT is excited about this training because of the Church's vision about ministry to the disenfranchised and its sponsorship of the historic Zion Bible Institute. The Church has ties to the Rhode Island prison system.

News Flash FIT To Extend Free Class Materials Through The End Of The Year!



Because of the generous giving by individuals and churches, FIT will now be able to extend its offer to support FIT classes with the printed materials needed through the end of the year. This is in addition to certificate and record services always provided to our volunteers who have completed our training. Experience shows us that the printed materials are essential to success and that facilitators drop out if they are not provided. Also, clients write in the guides and find them essential to completing the class. Requests are made online at www.100hour.org. Click on "Forms" on the top ribbon and then on "Click

Here for Book Request" at the bottom. Fill in the form. Scroll back to the top and click "Submit".

Many thanks to contributors who have made this possible. This year-to-date we have been able to sustain our unit completions at 80% of last year's. This is in spite of the downturned economy and last year's severe slump in giving. Most of our support comes from individuals and churches. Churches can help by placing us on their mission committee giving schedule. Donations can be made online or by mail. We will even inform you as to where your money is used.

We Get Mail

Dear Brother,



Just wanted to thank you for your vision to help those in prisons and jails. I knew from the first day I

heard how this program worked that it was a God-send to the body. The fruit I have seen is beyond amazing. Souls turned to

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the Lord, lives rededicated to the Lord and hearts healed. Last Tuesday in our after-care class, one girl broke out crying because of an abortion her parents had pressured her into having. She had carried this guilt for so long it had caused her to hate herself and she was in a constant state of anger. Her parents had made a comment to her about "how could she raise another child when she wasn't taking care of the one she had". This thought of failure kept her from ever believing she would amount to anything. She is in her forties and facing 15 years in prison. I believe this FIT program is doing what no other program she has been in has done. This is the fifteenth program she has been in. She has finished <u>Parenting</u> and now attending Free to Grow.

At Jackson Work Camp we are facilitating <u>Overcoming Loss and Grief</u>. We started out with 13 men, now we are down to six. But these men have been so delivered. We are on the seventh lesson. I was led by the Spirit to let them each take two of the words describing confronting and dealing with traumas. They heartily took the challenge and shared specific examples on how the dealt with their loss. They took so much time that we had to finish the scriptures the next week. Again they noted how these examples related to their own lives. So the next week I said surely we will finish this lesson and continue on into lesson 8. Not to happen. In even more depth, they began to see the 10 stages of grief and how it applied to their situations.

One man told of how he had stuffed so much grief down that when his family called to tell of his grandmother's death

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that they requested that he see a psychologist. At his appointment, she had mentioned that he was full of switches that he could turn on and off. In his heart he said "well, I am turning you off". He was a ticking time bomb. He told the class that now he believes she was right. Then we got on the

discussion of 9/11 and how trauma can hit a nation. It just so happened there was an inmate who was there on 9/11. He brought some important facts to light in the area of mass trauma. Then we talked of how we would react to threats to our personal life. Some said "how could we do nothing? Aren't we to defend ourselves?" This led to another inmate who opened up and shared about the trauma he faced in Iraq. He is carrying so much hurt and pent-up emotions, it has caused him to be isolated, which in turn has caused his marriage to be affected. Just that week his wife had sent papers filing for divorce. That was just a taste of what God is doing. That you all for your help with the FIT Curriculum.

Beverly Shatterly, Florida Panhandle



DON'T FORGET THE FUNDRAISER DINNER NOV 12th

"Dressy" Attire

RECEPTION, SILENT AUCTION AT 6 pm

• Fresh Fruit, Iced Tea

DINNER BUFFET, PROGRAM AT 7:00 PM

- Caesar Salad (served)
- Oven-Roasted Potatoes, Fresh Vegetables
- Butter Crumb Tilapia
- Sugar-Cured Hawaiian Ham
- Roast Top Round of Bee w/Mushroom Gravy
- Rolls/Butter/Coffee

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BRADENTON, FL. ORDER TICKETS OR TABLE DONATIONS ONLINE

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