

August 2012 Newsletter

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BEVERLY SHATTERLY TRAINS LEADERS AT CALLOWAY ASSEMBLY OF GOD IN PANAMA CITY, FL

ABOVE, in back, are trainer Beverly Shatterly and graduates David White; Donna DeGroot, Malcolm Flanagan, Maria Mitchell, and Willie Mitchell. In front are Caroline Matichuk, Pam Coleman, and Roger Coleman.

AT RIGHT, the group watches a FIT video featuring Jon George's testimony. Jon came to the Lord some years ago while serving time in the Sarasota County Jail. While there, "God found" him, as he puts it, and turned his life around. After getting out Jon wanted to give something back and contacted the chaplain. The chaplain recommended the FIT Jon was reluctant at first but the curriculum. chaplain was insistent, and Jon eventually became a regular facilitator. Soon after this, Jon saw his former jail mate. Joe Moore, at a bus stop and told him about FIT. Joe had also found God and wanted to minister but needed "a curriculum and transportation". This was an answer to praver for both because Jon had been told he should have a co-facilitator when first starting out. On July 25, 2009 the two traveled the 1 ½ hours to Lakeland for



their FIT training session. They have been active ever since. Joe now serves on the FIT board of directors.

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK! Thanks to you, FIT has grown!

We have recorded **5,152 course graduates** since we started keeping records in March of 2008. This corresponds to **80,158 contact hours** with participants and only includes hours of individuals

completing the whole course. Counting all participation, the figure is closer to **a quarter million**! The year-to-date comparison between last year and this year show a growth rate of 35%. This is in spite of the normal attrition we experience in volunteers, funding sources, and institutions that will allow us in. We are subject to all the rules, regulations, and restrictions of our host institutions. Many of them, especially recovery houses, have closed. Prisons and jails change hands, privatize or return to public, or completely change administrations as a result

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of budget cuts. Thank you again for standing there with us as we grow! Our growth has caused a strain on our financial resources, but our office is constantly updating and streamlining to handle even larger workloads in the future. Our donation levels have continued to grow, as well.

Most responsible for the dramatic growth has been the unprecedented growth of our prison ministry due to cutbacks in the state-funded and required 100-hour transition program. Now, instead of a few FIT classes here and there, the institutions are using our Department of Corrections approval to offer the entire program to those needing it. This has led to the large number of leader training sessions needed to staff programs that meet every day of the week so that graduations can occur in a short period of time. We were not sure it could be done, especially where we had no prior presence, but thanks to especially the work of Ed White, Fred DeMouey and Elena Bozzi, the seemingly impossible was done. These were the persons most responsible for recruitment and training so that our new facilities would have enough volunteers needed to staff classes every day of the week. Outstanding!



