



December 2016 Newsletter

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from your *FIT Board of Directors*



Don Pratt
President



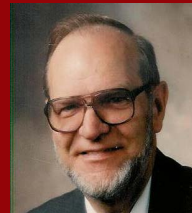
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Ted Gaines
Board Member



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Beverly Shatterly
Board Member



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Board Member



Suzanne Wilson
Board Member



John Woods
Board Member

Thanks for making 2016 a banner year!

In 2016 we raised \$17,700 in our fund raiser, including a \$9,905 grant, distributed 1,000 books, had 1,800 course graduations, trained 120 leaders, started ministries in 12 new locations, upgraded all books to new professional format, updated the Dating and Marriage course, updated the curriculum, completed the work for the new Handling Loss and Grief course as a joint project with the Living Free ministry, updated and expanded the Financial course, completed most of the work for the new Change of Heart course, and upgraded all FIT courses to the nine-lesson format.

Though a trying year, we came out stronger than ever. Because of the outstanding support received through the board in terms of personal financial sacrifices, the more than record amounts raised through the fund raiser, and the faithful support of others, we made it. The year started out as our most difficult time financially with having to borrow money for the first time in ten years. It ended in the black with the largest inventory of books we have ever had. Thank you and thank God.

Two Trained in Bradenton, FL



Susan Baewer and Sam Bastarache completed their orientation training course in Bradenton in November. Both are from Bradenton and are already planning to help the local effort. Both are looking forward to working in the local jails. There is demand for our courses but we are short on volunteers.

More Facilitators Needed at the Charlotte and DeSoto Correctional Institutions

Ted Gaines, our board member from Southwest Florida, reports a great need for more facilitators at the state prisons in the Fort Myers and Arcadia areas. He and fellow board member Joe Johnsick have been the mainstays there for years but are needing to cut back for various reasons. If you would be willing to help out, call Ted at 239.771.4924.

FIT Moves Beyond Florida

In a growing trend, the FIT program is moving beyond its roots in Florida. A number of our board members are moving out of state and have stated their intentions of taking the program with them. We also have “snow birds” also facilitating in Florida in the winter and in their home states in the summer. FIT is also working with the Living Free ministry in Chattanooga, TN in revising their Handling Loss and Grief course.

Keep your Dues Up-to-Date

Keeping current on your dues is essential to our program. We provide many services to many ministries and our minimal dues (\$25 per year) helps us in several ways. It helps us update our contact lists, pay the bills, and determine who gets our free materials. Even though our writers write for free, there are still production costs. We have only one paid employee to run the office and we can only afford to pay her for 20 hours a week. Most ministries and facilitators cannot afford to buy our books and custom-made, central database-generated certificates and we end up providing them for free. If in doubt as to your dues status, call the office at 941.799.4975 and we will be glad to assist you. If you can help with an additional donation, that would be appreciated and help us with our mission.

Members Welcome to Attend any of our Board Meetings

Our Articles of Incorporation stipulate quarterly board meetings as well as an annual business meeting. Actually, every board meeting is also a business meeting. All members are welcome to attend. Call the office for more details.

The 2017 board meeting schedule is as follows:

Q1 Meeting, Saturday, 9-11 AM EST, January 28, Bradenton, FL
Q2 Meeting, Saturday, 9-11 AM EDT, April 29, Bradenton, FL
Q3 Meeting, Saturday, 9-11 AM EDT, July 29, Bradenton, FL
Q4 Meeting, Saturday, 9-11 AM CDT, October 28, Tallahassee, FL

2017 Training Classes Announced

FIT holds at least four leader training classes a year at its headquarters in Bradenton, FL. Others are added on an as-needed basis in other locations. This includes in other states as well. Our 2017 training schedule is:

Next Training Dates in Bradenton, FL

Saturday	Feb 4, 2017	8 - 4
Saturday	May 6, 2017	8 - 4
Saturday	Aug 5, 2017	8 - 4
Saturday	Nov 4, 2017	8 - 4