



September 2017 Newsletter

www.familyintegrity.org



(Title suggested by Trainer Joe Johnsick)

Down Mexico Way (from New Hampshire)

This photo is from the training class conducted on August 23 in Manchester, NH. Pastor Greg Winslow and wife Suzanne, the couple on the right, have been missionaries in Mexico for 28 years. They have planted a church in Zihuatanejo, Mexico where his son, Pastor Josiah Winslow and his wife, Paola, the couple on the left, are now pastoring. At right is Timothy Nee from Saugus, Massachusetts, a lifelong friend of Pastor Greg, is looking to take our ministry into the state of Massachusetts.

Josiah and Paola Winslow's plan is to lay the foundation for the FIT ministry in their church in Mexico and expand it into the judicial and prison system once a facilitator base has been established. The Winslow family will be translating our courses into a Spanish dialect that is suitable for Mexico.

Trainer Joe Johnsick, left, is planning another leader training session for late September for church workers who want to work toward implementation of the FIT program in New Hampshire in prisons and family services at the city, county, and state levels. The information will be posted on our website when plans become finalized.

Don't forget the 2017 FUNDRAISER

Thursday, September 7, 7 AM-7 PM EDT

Contribute online at familyintegrity.org. The site will be updated throughout the day to keep you up-to-date with our progress.

Last year's Fundraiser raised \$17,696.11 for FIT's work with providing quality materials and expertise with our dedicated volunteers. This year we want to raise \$20,000 and we can do it with your help.

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Jessie's story as told by facilitator Beverly Shatterly

Jessie was in my very first FIT class at Okaloosa Correctional Institution in 2011. He was 32, had a violent past, and filled with anger. He was initially incarcerated at the age of 13 and then again at age 16. Since then he has been almost continuously imprisoned. He is now serving a life sentence and has completed every FIT course twice over for a total of 238 contact hours.

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Jessie with his family and the service dog he trained.

After years of constantly getting into trouble in prison, Jesse had gotten “saved” and improved somewhat but could not release his anger. We began to see a change in him through our FIT class right away but that ended when he was put back in confinement because of a failed urine test. After his release from confinement, I let him back into our next FIT class. During one of our sessions our facilitators Sister Lorna and Brother Jim took him and prayed for him and he confessed of a great guilt he had been carrying because a blunt, heavy object that had been meant for him hit his little brother and caused him to be paralyzed. After being helped with this, he became a new man. Over time, we watched as he was transformed into a different person. We had tried for years to start FIT in his new facility, but it did not happen.

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After Jesse got there, he started praying and talking to the staff about FIT. Just a couple of weeks after I got a rejection letter for bringing FIT into that facility, I got a call from the classifications office. The officer said he had heard some good things about FIT and asked if I would meet with him and the warden to look at the curriculum. That was the answer to Jessie’s prayers and mine. We now hold two classes every week there. Not only that, but Jessie is still sharing Jesus with the inmates and they are attending FIT as well. This has been the most successful program I have worked with.

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Editor’s note. Beverly received her training as a FIT facilitator on October 10, 2009. Since then she has taught 76 FIT courses and served as Regional Director, Board Member, and FIT Trainer. She has other ongoing stories that will be shared in the future. Beverly resides in North Carolina.

FIT Graduations Top 15,000

FIT has issued over 15,000 course graduation certificates since March 13, 2008. How can we be sure of that? Because we have custom-made databases that track all clients, facilitators, facilitator trainings, class sessions, donors and donations. That is why we can produce a complete record of any class or individual record for any involvement they have had with FIT. Additionally, we have specialized local databases that we use to produce weekly class progress reports that are distributed to local Department of Children and Families agencies.

I was once asked if the numbers are actually real. You bet they are. In fact, you can request a record for any one of our clients and we can provide you with a detailed list of every course graduation they have earned, complete with all the legal data needed for use in court (name, date, course, number of hours completed, facilitator, city, and in most cases, the topics covered). Some clients have certificates from three or four places. For example, they started out in a community program, went to jail, then prison, changed prisons, then ended up in a recovery house that had our program.

“We’ve Got Your Back”

How safe is it to minister in prisons and jails?

It is noteworthy that in nearly ten years of FIT ministry, we have had virtually no complaints about personal safety from either men or women. Why? Because our clients are so appreciative of our love and commitment to them that they “have our back”. They protect us from gangs and individuals who could cause trouble. And, they want a safe place themselves, and we provide it.