

## From Betty, our Office Manager



Greetings and may 2023 bring good health, and many blessings as we endeavor to work together and WIN more souls to Christ. It is only with each of us working together as a team, lifting each other up in Prayer, and asking God “what more can I do to help further the mission of FIT“, that we can continue to succeed.

One of the most important things to remind everyone about is our upcoming FIT Leadership Training Class that will be held on Saturday February 4, 2023, 9AM-4PM ET. We need more volunteer leaders as we expand and try to reach more prisons, jails and half-way homes. Please pass the word on to all the people you know, as you might be surprised at some one that God has laid on their heart to get involved and didn't know how to go about it.

The grant money that we recently received does not cover the ordinary expenses of running our office, printing and mailing of certificates, toner or many other things. The grant is to be used to supply books in the prisons and jails for reuse, postage to mail them, travel-related expenses for leaders to promote and coordinate our program with chaplains and other administrators in jails in prisons, and to pay some of the expenses involved with providing onsite training of inmate facilitators.

We are still active after all these years because of our faithful supporters who have a love for the ministry and support the work of our very dedicated and passionate volunteers. Many are themselves going through very difficult times with things like the cost-of-living expenses out of control. So, all I am saying is that whatever anyone can contribute at any time is greatly appreciated. I personally thank Jesus for every amount that comes in, because I know it is given in love, and many times very sacrificially so we can touch more lives.

## From the President's Desk



Well, it's been quite a ride over the last quarter! Frustrating, but exciting.

The office was shut down four times in the last two months. First it was the hurricane that left us without power, internet and phone for over a week. Then there was another time when we had no internet for several days. Later, a lightning strike put us out of commission for several days until we could figure out which equipment was damaged. Finally, we recently went through a power failure. We had numerous computer failures due to old equipment and running out of disk space. These issues have now been resolved.

At the same time, we were gearing up for implementing and setting up accounting measures for the grant. And the grant has been a lifesaver. Already we have used over \$4,600 to pay for books, travel, prepare brochures and information packets, pay for software to allow John Ringleb to help with editing and preparing the newsletter. John has made numerous trips to the office to aid in planning and producing the new materials. Numerous board members and trainers have expressed interest in traveling to promote FIT now that we have the grant. We expect the spending for grant-related tasks to pick up quickly now.

We have trained Karen and she is now running the office on Fridays and double-teams with Betty on Tuesdays. Adding another team member quarter-time was long overdue and has been especially appreciated as the demands on the office has increased - even during Christmas week. The office has been upgraded from single-user networking to multi-user, allowing all three of us (Betty, Karen, and me) to access all the files at the same time. Setting this was time-consuming but well worth the effort and the office is humming smoothly now.

Other positive signs includes Living Free's adoption of three of our courses: English Anger Dynamics, Spanish Anger Dynamics, and Practical Parenting. Norine is also getting close to finishing the Spanish Coping with the Losses of Life for Living Free. We will get royalties on all these products. The grant has helped us in more ways than just providing us with money. We have more board participation than ever which is essential to our success.

**Certificates Issued in 2022:**

1421

**December 2022 Certificates Issued**

190

## Spanish Translation News



Norine Hodder

In 2021, FIT published the translation of the Anger Dynamics course that I translated into Spanish (La Dinámica del Enojo). After seeing the translation of Anger Dynamics, the staff of Living Free, the organization that provides curriculum for Adult and Teen Challenge, requested I translate their course, Dating and Marriage. FIT also uses that course. Living Free published the Spanish translation, Noviazgo y Matrimonio, in 2022. My third translation of a FIT course is in progress. After completing the translation of Coping with the Losses of Life, I gave the manuscript to a native Spanish speaker for proofreading. After one or two persons proofread the manuscript, I will review and prepare it for Don Pratt. He, then, will enter the corrections into his program and send it to Living Free. After their editor makes the necessary formatting changes for publication, he will send the manuscript to the publisher. The final steps of the publication process may take a few months. Then, my third translation of a FIT course will be published, Lord willing.

Translating FIT courses to another language requires adjusting the wording of the English version. For instance, when translating the phrase, “get your point across,” I must first rephrase the idiom “get across.” The phrase becomes “convey your point.” This phrase translates into meaningful Spanish. In contrast, the literal translation of “get your point across” would be nonsense in Spanish.

Since FIT aims to train people who can facilitate in Spanish, there is a need for translating the training manual. With the manual translated, FIT will be closer to training Spanish speakers to facilitate courses. I am preparing the English version of the training manual for translation. Preparing the English manuscript for translation would also help with translating it into other languages besides Spanish.



### A Note From John

Well, Christmas is finished. As of this morning, we stored the decorations away, except for the storage boxes that must wait for younger legs and arms to reposition the boxes in the attic. Of course, we are going to find remnants after packing our memorabilia for weeks, if not months from now. It is now four days into the New Year, usually by this time, we all have made resolutions to lose weight, exercise, get out more and set new spiritual goals, which may or may not be kept.

I think back to the well-celebrated birth of Christ and realize that this event announced the beginning of God’s love plan for us that would not be fulfilled until his only son allowed himself to be humiliated, beaten and bloodied on the cross, resulting in his death which was the only way back to His Father. Then we could become children of God through Christ’s sacrifice!

Of course, we realize that Easter came 33 years later! Christ got busy! People were healed, lives transformed and Christianity began! Christmas was the beginning! As this year begins, my wife and I are revising our giving as well, and we will increase our monthly giving to the ministry of FIT. I believe that through increased giving and participation, the ministry becomes more effective. Christ loved being with and serving those who are recipients of this ministry. Thank God I can be a part!

Legacy is defined as an amount of money or property left to someone in a will. There are many synonyms such as: bequest, inheritance, heritage, bequeathal, bestowal, benefaction, gift, patrimony, heirloom, settlement, birthright, provision, devise, hereditament. I believe there is a far more powerful meaning, the spiritual meaning. Something that is given as a gift, without qualification, freely accepted, whose value changes lives and lasts into eternity!

Consider starting or increasing a monthly legacy to FIT. Become more involved. Find others! What you give will go farther than your life and reach into eternity. I close now, but I must leave with a chuckle. I just washed my hands with soap from a snowman and dried them with a Christmas towel.