

## From the President's Desk



This has been a summer like no other! It has really been hot. Usually, we get a little break in the summer months, but the activity in the office never let up at all, even with all three of us working. Betty gets paid for 20 hours per week at \$18/hour, Karen for 10 hours for less than that, and I essentially am full-time and don't get paid anything.

We aren't complaining, though. The problems and pressures are evidence that many good things are happening. We have been pleasantly surprised by how loyal some of our best producers in the field have been. They are still fighting the good fight in spite of the problems and obstacles that have to be faced and the lack of appreciation shown for what they are doing, and they are all doing it for free. Not only that, many have increased their giving so that this ministry will move forward. In other words, they are paying to do the work they are doing.

I heard one person recently suggest that we were "all about the money". We aren't. We are fortunate to have even existed in these last 18 years of development. Thanks to all of our supporters! We will keep on improving and implementing our mission as long as you keep supporting us. Thanks again. May we always be worthy of your support.



### *From Betty Drawdy, Office Manager.*

Being a native Floridian, I can tell you this has been the hottest summer I have ever experienced in my lifetime as a resident. I would prefer to go back to the "Good Ole Days" when we actually has some relief with days upon days of cold days where you were glad to finally see it warm up.

And now, here are some ways that you can help us at the office. When ordering certificates, it is important that you use our website form at <https://100hour.org/member1.html> and that a separate form be used for each type of class taught. We need the title of the course, date class started, date completed, how many hours were completed, and the names of those facilitating the class. You can list all the class member names in one box, but please include the following. Only 1 person's first, middle, and last name and DOC # per line. Sometimes a person may also be a "Jr., Sr., II, or III This is important information for our system to have. Without this we cannot keep accurate records. For example, there are too many "John Smiths" and Betty Drawdys to know which one you are referring to without complete information. Finally, fill in the box that asks for whom we are to send the certificates.

The same thing applies when ordering books. Who is facilitating? Where? When does the session start? Name of book using & how many facilitator guides and group guides are needed, as well as who is receiving them and, of course, their address.

Our heart's desire is for us to reach out with our materials and watch God touch and change lives forever.

**Our next Online Leader Training** is Saturday, November 4. You may sign up online at <https://familyintegrity.org>

Learn how to effectively use the FIT materials and the special benefits of membership. The cost is \$45 for the training and one year's membership with a \$10 early registration. There will be a \$10 increase as of January 1. Online training is only held four times a year.

## **Mark Your Calendar for Our Online Fall Fundraiser on November 28.**

Check <https://familyintegrity.org> for details in November. FIT holds two fundraisers a year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

Our Fall fundraiser is held on the worldwide giving day called Giving Tuesday and giving results will be posted on our website throughout the day. Our goal is \$5,000.

**July  
Graduations  
132**

**August  
Graduations  
154**

## **What Do We Need to Do this Ministry? Part 3 Courage**

After putting my feelings aside, the next activity was the action step. The going to the prison, staring at the fences with the barbed wire, walking through the first gate, getting into the block house, making sure I left everything considered as contraband in the car. Once my articles were X-Rayed, I went through the metal detector, around an electronic "sniffer" and then was patted down. I was given a badge and a device designed to go off if the pin was removed. After exiting the block house and a few more gates, I was in the general population. I finally got used to the abrupt "Clang!" when the gate locked. At that point, I headed to the Chapel or the dorms. There were times when the hairs on the back of my neck went up. Compassion kept me going. Courage was supplied by compassion. God was with me. He would work it out.

At times, saying that you go to prisons and community centers teaching life skills receives unusual responses from fellow Christians. Some look at you like you have grown a third eye. Others quickly dismiss your statement and change the subject. Sometimes the unspoken word is "why?". I did that once. There is a misunderstanding of the importance of our ministry and sometimes they haven't gotten past that all need God's love and forgiveness in their lives. The appreciation shown by those served tell me that I am where I should be. The way we present the courses reflect respect to all who come in.

We need more to do this ministry, but the first step is to have compassion, then courage. Next month I will talk about the third "C" word, Commitment.