

Merry Christmas!

- Our support
- FIT membership
- Celebration Party for 1,000 graduations at Sarasota County Jail!



OUR SUPPORT

It seems the years slip by in a hurry for some of us. It is one holiday after another. I think Christmas is the most meaningful of all. Let us all be thankful for God's Son because He is the reason for the season.



I was talking today with a state official and he said it seems there is a revival going on inside our prisons. So many lives are being changed and many are because of the 100 hour curriculum. It really is working. The wardens and chaplains are very happy at the change in the lives of the men. Families are happy because the husband is a changed man. One man in my class today stated his life was saved as a result of being sent to prison. He met Jesus while in prison and is learning how to live a Christian life. Another one of my students called today and informed me he has a job and his family is doing well. He is also established in a local church. Another man in another city is doing training classes for the county and is getting paid for it. I will try and share more of the victory stories in another newsletter later.

God bless you this holiday season
Ed White, Founder of FIT

FIT MEMBERSHIP BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2013

In order to be more organized and efficient as well as to open up new ways to serve our mission, FIT is offering membership to those who identify with what we are doing. Our members come from all ways of life and educational levels, but the one thing that unites us is a lifestyle of Christian living. We are non-denominational and stay away from any divisive doctrine that would detract from our Christian testimony or our focus on our Savior Jesus Christ. That being said, we also offer the solid practical help in dealing with life controlling problems like alcoholism, drug addiction, anger management. We also work with prostitutes, parents who have had their children removed, and criminals in jail and prison and those who have been released. We also work with people in the community in dealing loss and grief.

FIT membership begins on January 1, 2013 and will be the basis for distributing the free materials and services that FIT has been so well known for. We are a faith ministry and have to constantly balance our three most major organizational needs: volunteers who will carry out our mission (all of our facilitators are volunteers), institutions who will allow us in to minister, and funds to operate. We struggle with all three areas, but at least the three have been in balance this past year. For a whole year, we have been able to take care of most of the needs of our clients and workers.

The cost of FIT membership is \$25 per calendar year and will be the basis for distributing FIT resources and ensuring our donors that their money is being most efficiently used. A chaplain or third party may request materials or FIT certificates from our website as in the past, but the actual person(s) facilitating the class must be members. Another way of becoming a member is completing our one-day training session and paying the \$35 training fee. That person will then be a member for the rest of the calendar year. We encourage those whose training was a few years ago or more to take advantage of a "refresher" course to bring them up to date with all of the things that have happened since their training session.

Finally, membership will now be open to those who would never feel comfortable ministering in a prison or among street people but would like to help the organization to get that job done. Ways that people can help in very important ways are writing to incarcerated, helping with fundraising, doing phone work or assisting a facilitator in a recovery house or community program.

We hope that many will choose to be FIT members. The \$25 per year will help us financially as well as point out those who are serious about our mission. Members will also be able to participate in the annual business meeting. The next one is Thursday, January 10, 2013 in Lakeland, FL at 1:00-2:00 P.M. Check the website later for the exact location as we are still working on that at this time. To become a member, go to our website and click on membership.

**WE ARE HAVING A PARTY! Sunday, January 20, 2013 in Bradenton, FL
(Peridia Golf and Country Club brunch, 12-2 PM, 4950 Peridia Boulevard)**

To celebrate our 1,000th course certificate awarded at the Sarasota County Jail, we are having a party. You will like this one. It will be an informal meeting but we would like to have folks dressed in their church clothes for pictures and stories to go in this newsletter. Accomplishing this many graduations has taken a large cast of volunteers and produced wonderful results.

FIT has its own banquet room but service is buffet style and guests will go for their food anytime they want and leave anytime they want. We would like to take pictures from 1:30-2:00 PM if possible. There is no formal program as people get out of church at different times and we do not want to inconvenience anyone. Brochures and envelopes for membership and donations will be present on tables.

We may need reservations in by January 13. Check our website for updates. It will also have a way to pay online for this event as well as for membership. The cost is \$30 for this first-class meal. Approximately \$22 goes to the facility and \$8 supports FIT. Send your reservation check to FIT, PO Box 21411, Bradenton, FL 34204-1411 or check website (may take a few days for set this up). Call us with your reservation at 941.739.1338.