



February 2013 Newsletter

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www.familyintegrity.org

Web Site Revamped! New "Members" Section Consolidates Member Services



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On January 1, 2013, FIT officially inaugurated its membership program. Friends of FIT can become members in two ways – by filling out an application and paying the \$25 annual membership fee or by completing the one-day FIT leader training program and receiving a complimentary, one-year, paid-up membership. Facilitators who are members not only receive recognition as FIT facilitators, they also become eligible to teach our classes, order complimentary custom-made, official certificates for each class member, and order FIT-supplied books for the class sessions as funds allow. The membership dues from all members helps us to do this. In the first seven weeks of 2013, \$685 was raised from membership dues – enough to equip four classes of 16 students. All member services may be accessed by clicking on the "Members" button on the far right of the top ribbon (see above).

FIT FACILITATORS REPORT SUCCESS WITH THE DATING AND MARRIAGE COURSE

December 11, 2012

Dr. Pratt - As you requested we took a survey from the ladies whom just completed the 18-hour Dating and Marriage Course. It's amazing to see these ladies come in like budding flowers and each week open up little by little, until they seem to come into full bloom by the last class. Maria and I are honored to be a part of the Family Integrity Training, to see what a difference it makes in these ladies lives and how it will help them make correct choices in the future.

First we asked..."How have you benefited from this class?" They all responded because they were ignorant and blinded to the importance of the "Biblical principles" presented in *Dating and Marriage*. They also said they learned that they were not to be confrontational, which a lot of these ladies grew up with in such surroundings. They wanted to wait and find a godly mate. And learned what to and not to look for in a relationship.

Next we asked "what did you like or dislike about this class?" The ladies weren't very keen on the idea of submission, but saw how the husband is to be the head over the household and they are not doormats. These ladies learned how to compromise, to talk things out, to be quiet and listen and respect each other's point of views. Instead of attacking each other, they would attack the situations together as a team. By putting scriptural foundations into the different settings, they saw things in a totally different light. Things they were not aware of in their past, but will be able to apply this knowledge in their current or future relationships.

Thirdly we asked, "how can Family Integrity Training help you once you are released?" They asked for continued prayer coverage. The ladies who are not currently married would like to meet godly men. We strongly suggested they don't go looking, making God as their husband, casting all their cares upon the Lord. God will send the right godly gentleman, if



it's in His will. From my own experience I shared that I had waited eight years before I met my husband. Neither of us was looking, met at church, became friends first and started dating and how blessed and so much different it is. Another sister suggested Christian Mingle. God's order is...putting God first, family and then work.

Fourth..."When released would you be willing to be welcomed, mentored and nurtured by an individual or church?" Every one of the ladies said "yes", they would be willing and look forward to such an opportunity because they need to get out of their old patterns. The ladies asked if before leaving that maybe FIT give a refresher course and wanted to know how they could get the information to continue. Again encouraging them and told them that FIT is branching out into the different counties and states and should be a nationwide program. Dr. Pratt, these ladies are hungry and willing to continue growing. We sincerely believe they want to change and just need the sponsors and gentle motivation of godly women in the communities to open up to them. The married ladies asked for marriage counseling.

Last, but not least...the ladies brought to our attention how much they value their certificates and how professional the FIT certificates are compared to some of the others they received. They commended how polished and distinguished these certificates are. Some were merely a signed piece of paper stating certificate with not even the class indicated. We encouraged the ladies to continue to take faith-based classes and not to let this discourage them. Their concern was that when they go before a judge that they can show what they did with their time. Our kudos, Dr. Pratt, for covering all the bases for the FIT program to continue building these women up. God's continued blessings on Family Integrity Training. Sincerely in Jesus Christ, Maria Rosario and Christine Reining



Getting Down to Work

Other than prayer (which we always need – we would not be where we are without God's favor) FIT has three major ongoing needs: trained volunteers who will make the sacrifices necessary to facilitate our program, institutions that will let us in to do our work, and the money needed to run the program. Of the three, **having volunteers is the most crucial**. Without them, we would have no program.

In the past year, we have expanded both the number of our offerings and institutions we serve. For various reasons, there is attrition. People's work schedules may change or illness may keep our top producers from serving. Or, because of administrative or structural changes in the prison/jail system, we may lose (or gain) the spot we held at the institution. Billions of dollars are spent on incarceration in Florida alone with the Department of Corrections being the largest state agency. 30,000 state prisoners are released into the community each year while 33,000 are going into the system, causing more and more prisons to be built and increasing the tax burden. Florida has about 100,000 in state prisons and another 120,000 under community supervision. 100,000 more are in county jails. Our task is daunting.

Southwest Florida represented in Leadership Training at Bradenton, FL

On February 2, 11 new facilitators were trained at Journey Assembly of God in Bradenton, FL. They came from all over Southwest Florida – Naples, North Port, Venice, Sarasota, and Bradenton. These folks were pastors and workers in jails and recovery houses. They showed great interest in implementing what they had learned.

