

## RECENTLY RELEASED PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL IN BRADENTON

Recently Released meets on Thursday nights and ministers to FIT leaders, to the recently released, and to their teen-age children. Some of the successes reported are parents regaining custody of their children as a result of our certificate program, the unconnected getting help in reestablishing themselves in society, and spiritual growth and development. Recently Released uses the same curriculum as used in the jails, and numerous individuals have been able to continue what they started while in jail.



Recently Released offers a formal program for learning skills in problem solving, personal identity in Christ, being successful financially, parenting, dealing with anger and disappointment, and moving forward through the help of the Holy

Spirit, the Word of God, and the people of God. This group networks in an attempt to lead participants into the right kinds of environments, resources, and friends.

In many cases, judges, courts, and officers of the court recognize completion of our units as meeting progress towards conditions of supervision or sentencing. Our certificates of completion contain the pertinent information that is of interest. Our units vary in length from 5-13 lessons (10-26 hours). For more information, refer to our website at <http://www.100hour.org>.

On the right are two young ladies who attended our meeting. We minister to all ages, male and female, and all church backgrounds. Class members often attend the churches represented by the group leaders. This is truly a cross-denominational venture.

The idea of the **FIT NETWORK** is now being discussed by the FIT Leadership. Thousands of people are released from jails and prisons every day, and there is the ever present need to find resources for them to be successful and not just reoffend and go right back where they came from. We need to know of churches and programs throughout the state who will welcome and mentor people genuinely seeking help. Please email the editor at [don@100hour.org](mailto:don@100hour.org) if you have pertinent information. Remember, we collect data for the entire state of Florida as well as for the rest of the country on a limited basis.





### **MELISSA'S TESTIMONY**

Though we are a young program, the work of our volunteers has already paid off with wonderful stories of how God has used them to help others.

At the left is Melissa Webber (center) with her daughter and nephew.

Here is Melissa's story:

On June 10, 2008, I found myself at rock bottom, sitting in a jail cell. My life had been in a downward spiral during the 6 previous months. I lost my house, job, custody of my daughter, car, and my freedom. This was all due to drug addiction which led to the extremely poor choices I made. I spent the summer in jail. When I arrived I was full of anger, bitterness, and, most of all, hopelessness. This would all soon change after signing up for a class called Personal Insight, which I signed up for to pass the time. This class was taught by two loving, Christ-filled women, who volunteered their time and were an inspiration to me. The Personal Insight class opened my eyes and heart to Christ. While in jail I was saved and had an overwhelming thirst and hunger for the Lord for the first time in my life. I spent most of my time studying the Bible and gaining an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. I am happy to say that I am now clean and sober. God has blessed me more than I could ever imagine since my released from jail. I have my daughter back, unconditional love and support from my family, my car, and I just started a new job. The Lord led me and my family to a church and ten of us were baptized there a couple of weeks ago. I am so blessed not to have left my relationship with Christ on the doorstep of the jail when I was released. I love life now. It isn't perfect, but with Christ I am thankful to be alive each and every day. I can get through each day knowing there is always hope. I remind myself daily, "...with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

2/4/09, Melissa Webster

**MELISSA'S MENTOR** Here is a further note from Robin Rogari, one of Melissa's first teachers and mentors:

Melissa was in our second class at the jail. She was very quiet didn't say much, but boy when she did it was powerful! This was the class that we had a visit from the Holy Spirit. The smelly classroom in the jail was full of the smell of roses! It was wonderful - everyone was just filled that day! Melissa was in one of the most wonderful classes! The transformation there was just overwhelming, God is so Good! I am so happy to be called to this ministry and be a part of the 100 Hour Curriculum. Melissa is one of the chosen few now and the wonderful thing is she is out sharing his word!

### **WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN EFFECTIVE MINISTRY?**

Consider being one of our volunteers! See our website at <http://www.100hour.org> for valuable information and note the leader training schedule on the first page. Over and over, people tell us that they like our program because it is all laid out for them and saves them from having to make up materials themselves.

"Together we can accomplish much more than working alone."