



July 2010 Newsletter

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FIT CURRICULUM SELECTED AS PRIMARY PROGRAM IN THREE NEW RECOVERY HOUSES



PROPOSED HOPE NOW MEN'S TRANSITION CENTER, LAKELAND, FL

In April 2010, a delegation toured the facility that would become the Hope Now Transition Center. This **96 bed facility** comes with a **100 acre farm** which can be

used for residents to partly support themselves. The FIT curriculum has been selected as the required intervention for all residents. At left are Polk County Sheriff's Department Counselor Dr. Lee Spell, FIT President Dr. Don Pratt, FIT Treasurer Fred DeMouey, and FIT Founder, Rev. Ed White. Below is White's vision for the center, in his own words.



GOD IS AWESOME By Ed White



Our God is much more than we could ever imagine. His power is beyond our thinking ability. Ten years ago it appeared we would be given 100 acres of land for the purpose of developing a transition center for prisoners, with a technical training department as well as a dorm for housing. I drew the plans in 2001 and secured instructors. It did not materialize and was placed on hold on the back burner of my mind. However, I continued to pray and wait. The story would fill a 100-page book if all were told, but here is a summary. One emphasis of the last ten years of my ministry has been the training men to be fathers and husbands. This took place mainly in jails and prisons, which I believe to be God ordained. Dr. Pratt can tell the story of the 100 hour curriculum much better because he was in on the writing of the material. Fred DeMouey and I, a long time friend and college classmate, began planning how we could locate the needed 100 acres and begin the process of building such a facility. A friend advised us to talk to the sheriff about the concept. We did that and everything seemed to come together as we shared our heart and vision with Sheriff Grady Judd. He informed us he had such a facility and farm available and the details were worked out. It appears at this time our team will secure the needed 96 bed facility and equipped farm this fall and will at last start functioning, all in God's timing. We will begin with the Florida Integrity Training, (FIT) Integrity Curriculum and then start the technical training before Christmas. I plan to have updates in this newsletter. The name of the organization will be "Hope Now."



JOSEPH RESTORATION CENTER OF FLORIDA, BRADENTON, FL – 40 BED FACILITY, OPENED JUNE 28, 2010



Don Pratt, President of FIT, presented a complete set of FIT curriculum materials valued at \$175 to **Gregory Wilkins**, CEO of Joseph Storehouse, on its second day of operation. At least four members of the staff have already been trained in the curriculum, and FIT will be used as the official program of the center. These leaders have already successfully used the materials in church and other settings. Others will be trained at the next FIT Leader Training in Bradenton on August 28. This facility is home to a 3-18 month mental health and substance abuse rehabilitation program. It is faith-based and employs doctors, psychologists, and other clinicians. CEO Wilkins says that the major reason that the FIT curriculum was selected was that it is faith-

based. Wilkins says “without any beliefs and faith, we are wandering aimlessly. Without that we are lost. We need something higher than ourselves.

In May 2010, FIT Secretary **Helen Campbell** traveled to Ridgeland, MS to conduct a leader training session at the newly-



opened CrossRoads House for Women. Since then, the women have nearly completed the entire curriculum. Helen writes: “After a very long road trip from Tampa, Florida to Madison, Mississippi, it was refreshing and exciting to meet with a group of women who had been waiting to receive their training in the FIT Curriculum. Southern hospitality and good southern cooking was a treat as we met at the Crossroads

Ministry house – a transition home for women just released from prison”.



Vicki DeMoney, the head of this ministry, along with her husband and staff have converted a four bedroom, 3500 square foot home, into a place of safety and ministry to women in need of acclimating themselves back into society. Vicki had been searching for a program that would meet the spiritual needs of

CROSSROADS HOUSE FOR WOMEN, MADISON, MS

her clients. That is when she came across the FIT curriculum on the internet. She says she is still not sure how she found us on the web but felt it was guided by God’s direction. It was just what she was looking for. Program Director **Linda Edwards** now uses the FIT program on an accelerated and daily basis. This makes it possible for her residents to complete the whole FIT program before their release from the center. CrossRoads is a three-to-six month facility.

From FIT’s perspective, Helen writes “what a privilege to be able to see God use us to reach out into other states where the need is as great as in Florida. We truly felt blessed to meet these wonderful ladies and enjoy their fellowship”.