



October 2009 Newsletter

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Testimonies from the Hernando County Jail

6 Men Complete the Entire Program



Thomas A. Johnson

This jail has produced the most graduates of our complete 100-hour program than any other facility. We had been told that our program would not work in the jail setting because jails are not set up for long-term programs and the population was not there enough for a long program. The Hernando County Jail has proven this wrong. In the two years there, Florida Integrity Program has produced six program graduates (all six units). Shown at the left is Thomas A. Johnson. He had completed the program nearly three times over by this past summer.

100 Hour Graduates

Hernando County Jail

- Duane Edwards
- Carl T. Hodges
- Thomas A. Johnson
- Robert Niederbach
- Anthony Rennick
- Harold W. Schism

Testimonies from Ladies Completing "Free to Grow"

Several Ladies from the Free to Grow session facilitated by Barbara Sappia and Dee Gallo were kind enough to share their thoughts about the powerful, positive effects of this unit on their lives. Here are their testimonies:

Melinda MacBain

I have taken advantage of every Florida Integrity Training program that has been available to me, one of which is Free to Grow.

When I first started this class I was new to the Word of God, and I still am. However, I have come a long way since I started. This class has been a blessing for me. I thank God for Barb and Dee and their faithfulness each and every week. They are a great inspiration to me. When I first started this class I was just trying to pass time. Lord forgive me, but that's the truth.

I still had the same intentions of stealing and even though I was not arrested for drugs, I was also a user of meth. And it was my intention to party hard when I got out. However, Free to Grow has changed my life tremendously. I have never felt so loved, accepted, joyful, grateful, peaceful, strong, and patient as I do now that I have Christ Jesus in my life. And I thank God for making all this possible.

And I thank Chaplain Kerr, Barb, Dee, CCA, and all my fellow sisters that attended class. My number one priority when I leave here is to wake up with Jesus and fall asleep with Him each and every day.

Thank You Jesus
Melinda MacBain

Connie Moore

My Free to Grow Class came to the right place at the right time. Imagine that! Right when I needed it.

The sessions worked their way through my life, from childhood years to present, allowing me to learn what my responsibilities are in order to experience spiritual and emotional growth. The sessions also taught me how important my decisions and actions are and how they can and will affect the future that I hope for.

In my evaluation of my class I would like to thank Dee and Barb for their loyalty and commitment, for their love and encouragement, and for their unconditional willingness to teach me how to utilize the best gift that anyone could ever possess-that is the gift of faith.

Sincerely
Connie Moore

Chantrece Scott

Hello, my name is Chantrece Scott, and before I talk about how this class has helped me, I would like to give thanks to my Lord and Savior who gave me a strong mind and will power to want to complete all 12 weeks of this class. I also would like to thank God for safely bringing Ms. Barb and Dee every week to want to help me get through this class. This class has helped me in ways I thought would never be possible such (1) expressing myself with others. Before I took this class I felt I shouldn't have to talk about my problems with others because I felt like it wasn't anyone's business, but when I took this class and saw how other people with worse problems express themselves, then I knew it was all right and it helped me out a lot. Another way was (2) becoming aware of what I was doing because I've always held a grudge with people who hurt me because I was too afraid to forgive them. But what I learned about this class is "how will I be able to be free to grow if I don't overcome the disappointments that are setting me back"? I remind myself of that every day. It took me to come to jail to take this class but I'm glad I did because I feel like I would be more lost than before if I hadn't have. This class also helped me keep my faith in my father, my God, because I strongly use Him and faith as an example because if it were not for Him touching Ms. Barb and Dee's heart to have faith in me and for me to have faith in myself then I wouldn't be graduating today. There were really were times I didn't want to come by my FAITH is what got me to this point.

A Message from President Don Pratt

I hope that you found the previous news and testimonies to be inspiring. Anyone who labors this harvest field long enough will experience stories such as these. I would just like to point out a few of the truths that are behind the successes mentioned here.

We need each other. Notice that a Chaplain, two facilitators, and other group members were involved. Behind the scenes, Area Director Tom Walter set up the sessions. Dr. Jimmy Ray Lee of Turning Point Ministries wrote the unit, and the Florida Integrity Training Inc. provided the books.

Our clients need the structure and sequence that our books provide. Every unit has goals and objectives for every lesson as well as for the unit itself. Success is not measured on the basis of how many facts can be recited. It is based on changes in thought and action and the ability to solve one's own problems.

Our clients need extensive contact with caring facilitators. Rapport and trust is not gained in a single lesson. Neither is the deep processing needed to tackle life's toughest problems.

Our clients need all six of our units-and more. They come to us with multiple challenges such as poor family backgrounds, abuse, and a lack of knowledge about the basics of serving God and living free.