



June 2012 Newsletter

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Don Batterman

July 1, 1954- May 20, 2012



FIT Vice President Don Batterman earlier this year Board Secretary Helen Campbell and President Don Pratt announcing the Don Batterman Award



Shown above: one of Don's Favorite Bible verses-Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

FIT sadly announces the passing of our Vice President Don Batterman. Don was one of our most productive facilitators. At the time of his death he was facilitating six different two-hour groups at three locations – Sarasota County Jail, Manatee County Jail, and Hardee Correctional Institution (state prison). All told, Don had 303 course graduates over the period from August 8, 2008 to May 3, 2012 and registered 3,614 contact hours with clients. This number was closer to 10,000 hours because FIT only counts the hours of persons actually completing a course. Don taught all 8 FIT courses with the exception of Free to Grow. He also led groups at FIT's Character Development program and at Joseph's Storehouse, both of Bradenton, FL.

FIT ESTABLISHES THE DONALD BATTERMAN DISTINGUISHED MINISTRY AWARD IN HONOR OF DON'S LIFE

The Donald Batterman Award will be used to recognize outstanding achievement and dedication. The criteria are those for which Don was well known for. They are **A love for God, a love for people, and a passion for the less fortunate - the least, the last, and the lost.**

Donald Batterman Distinguished Ministry Award




- Love for God
- Love for People
- Passion for the Less Fortunate - the least, the last, and the lost

Testimonials of Don's Ministry

A TRIBUTE TO DON BATTERMAN



My name is Anthony Barbato and this is my tribute to Don Batterman who passed on Sunday, May 20, 2012.

I met Don back in February 2009 while serving a 10-month sentence in Sarasota County Jail for my fourth DUI. Don was part of the Florida Integrity Training program [now known as Family Integrity Training]. For years he has been going into Florida jails teaching inmates parenting programs, financial programs and basic needs programs from a biblical point of view. Don would put his heart and soul into every class he taught. I began to see the light that this man was trying so hard to bring to others. Because of him I am saved. I opened my heart to

Jesus and live and clean and righteous life today. I owe it all to Jesus working through Don Batterman. He was a man who lived the "Purpose Driven Life" as described by Rick Warren.

Don Batterman was truly a servant of the Lord in everything he did. Don was not a wealthy man but he was the richest man I have ever met. The treasure he built up is in heaven waiting for him. A treasure that can't be stolen or rot. I know with every being of my soul that Don will spend an eternity grand fashion that he deserves.

I am sad that Don is not with us. He taught me how to deal with many things, including death. He would say things like "Death is a natural event. It may be viewed either as a final enemy or as a friend who ushers believers into the presence of God."

When he would say these things you could tell it was coming directly from his heart. He will be missed dearly. I get sad when I think that I won't be able to have conversations with him anymore, but I smile when I think of where he is!

God bless you, Don Batterman. You were a good man helped so many.

A LETTER TO DON BATTERMAN

Don,
I hope this will help you. I want to thank you again for being the friend you are. People should be grateful for you because I know that you truly care for us. You have taught me so much and I thank God for meeting you every day. I hope that at times, you will stop by. I will see you before I go back and I want you and Brother Pratt to know that I am still taking this program to Tennessee. As for this letter, I want you to know that you have my permission to let anybody and everybody read it. If you think it is good enough for the paper, then put it in there, too. I just want to say "thank you". You are a true brother in Christ.

God bless you, Edward "Ed" Neff Jr.

EDWARD COMPLETED ALL PARTS OF THE 100-HOUR CURRICULUM ON FEBRUARY 24, 2012.

This letter is for everyone interested in the Family Integrity Training program:

My name is Edward Neff. I am 40 years old and I have spent the biggest part of my life inside a cell. I started doing time in 1987 and never stopped. I was one of those people who believed I was a hopeless case even for God. I was wrong. I came down here to Florida in June of 2011 inside a police van. I did not have a clue as to what was going on. All I knew was that they that somebody must have pulled another trick on me. I even asked God "what was up" but I did not get an answer. Not then...but, he did answer me. This is how I think He answered me.

I did not know a single soul when I got here. All I did was stay to myself. When I finally started to come out of my cell, I started learning about all the programs they offered here. So, I decided I would sign up for one. I signed up for Parenting 101. I really did it at first just to get out of the cellblock, but it actually turned out to be

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the best thing I ever did. When I first got in there, the only thing I could say and think was: "With all the kids and grandkids I have, this man believes he is going to teach me something." Well, I have to say, "Thank you, Don", because he did. By using the

book the program has, the knowledge he had, and the Bible, he taught me a way to talk with my kids to where they could understand me. I never realized you had to talk to them on their level. I always talked to one the same way I talked to the others. Now I know that they are all at different times in life and they are not the same. I now have some very interesting conversations with my kids.

That is where my journey started. Since then I have learned about God wants my fiancé and me to live. I have learned how to deal with losses in my life for which I blamed God for. I have learned how to forgive not only others but also myself. I have learned that in order to save money I just have to use common sense. I have learned how to deal with anger. I have learned how to deal with personal issues, addictions, how to grow into a better life. "Thank you, Paul [Paul Webster was Edward's other facilitator]". But the most important thing that I have learned is the one thing most people can't accept. I know now that, no matter what, God loves me and He will never leave me. And I know that He will forgive me for my past. I love the fact that I now know where I am, why I am her and where I am going when my time comes. I know I am going home when my time is up. I just want to say this to all who read this.



PAUL WEBSTER AT DON'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

If you really want to learn how to live a better life for yourself and your family, I highly recommend this program. I have been to every program you can think of and none of them even came close to teaching me what this one has taught me. This is the only one that will teach you everything that you need to know to have a better relationship with your wife, your kids, friends, and most importantly, God. It will even show you where it is in the Bible.



When Brother Pratt did this, he accomplished what so many others only wished they could have done. I personally want to congratulate him for what he has done. I want to thank him [Brother Pratt], Don [Batterman], and Paul [Webster]. They showed me that even a convict with a past like mine can still be a better person. I now know that God still loves me.

So, for all who read this, I hope and pray that you get something out of it and the program

Thank you, Edward Neff