



# November 2016 Newsletter

[www.familyintegrity.org](http://www.familyintegrity.org)



Baptismal Service for Matthew Lee

## FIT more than just classes

**FIT** is a *transition program* that moves people from addictions and shortcomings to successful and productive lives through faith. FIT volunteers minister to clients wherever they may be. At the request of his mother, President Don Pratt and Office Manager Ellie Larson began visiting Matthew Lee while he was in jail. Then they corresponded with and visited him when he was moved to prison. Finally, they helped him get a bed in a transitional home. Matthew now has his GED, a job, and is enrolled in the local FIT classes and attends church with Pastor Pratt. The baptism shown above was conducted at his request. He was not allowed to be baptized while in prison. Matthew is young, appreciative, and energetic. We are pleased to be a part of his life.

**T**hough starting out as a prison transition program designed to meet the 100-hour course requirements for inmates in Florida prisons, focus quickly shifted to a broader goal - *transitioning to a more productive life in general*. The program now includes helping “lifers” transition to successful living within their confined environment. It also includes others in jails and prisons, transition and recovery houses, the homeless, addicted, and the mentally ill. FIT operations are found nationwide.

## More than just a prison ministry

**I**n the past ten years, over 1,100 volunteers have been trained to facilitate our small groups. Why small groups? It is because they provide the atmosphere that our clients crave - they want someone to listen to them and love them. When we gain their interest and trust, they open up to us. Then we can show them how they can improve their lives. We are not “preachy” and much wisdom comes from the group itself. Our field-tested materials and facilitators keep the classes on track.

## ***Beverly Shatterly Trains More Volunteers in Florida Panhandle***



***Dear Dr. Pratt,*** We had an enthusiastic class training. Dorene White hosted us at her home church, Crosspoint Methodist in Niceville, Fl. All attendees were very engaged and had a love for the work of the ministry. They participated and loved the FIT program. We had people from Alabama who were so excited that they want to have a training there for other members of their team. Also another two came from Suwannee County. It was interesting to know that Gary Ensign had mentored the inmate, Ruben Deleon, who translated the Anger Dynamics Guide into Spanish for us. Now Gary will be joining our FIT Facilitator team in Suwannee. ***Beverly Shatterly.***

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*Editor's note: Beverly has been a pillar in the Florida Panhandle ever since Ed White trained her in 2009. She has been our main coordinator and organizer in the area since coming on board and has represented us in large number of prisons. She does a lot of facilitating herself, but it is almost always done in partnership with others, many times with people she is training. We thank God for Beverly for all her work and for her longtime service on the Board of Directors. Beverly is seated in the photo below at our recent board meeting held at her church. At the right are board members visiting the women's center associated with the same ministry.*

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