

Eight trained in Florida on February 2

Six in Orlando area

Saturday Feb. 2 proved to be an exciting day for 6 trainees at Sochoe Assembly of God. John Ringleb and I drove the hour to the church and met the trainees. Much excitement was generated during the training session and many questions were answered concerning FIT inside the prisons in Florida and elsewhere. Pastor Howell requested the training and all went well. It appears there is a real desire among some of our churches across the state for this training. I believe there will be good results inside the prison cells as a result of this training. The FIT training is in many locations in this country and most of them are in Florida. With the help of the Lord we will get this training in most all of our Florida prisons in the next 2 years. Pray for our teams who are faithfully training people to go inside for ministry.

Ed White, Certified Trainer

Trained were Nanette Duncan-Rodriguez, Jose and Rosana Fernandez, Brenda Ward Key, Eliiu Muniz, and Octavio Rodrigues.

Next Leader Training Classes - see website for details

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| Monday, February 25, 2019, | Dunnellon, FL |
| Thursday, April 4, 2019 | Bartow, FL |
| Saturday, May 4, 2019 | Bradenton, FL |

Spring Online Fundraiser - Tuesday, May 7, 7 to 7

- One-Time Giving
- Monthly Giving
- Some Giving Matched
- Everything handled from our website
- Call us at 941.462.4975 if you do not have a computer or need assistance
- You can send a check if you like and it will count. You can indicate that online or you can call us during the hours and let us know.
- Your donation will make a big difference.

Two in Bradenton



Trained were Norine Hodder from Lakeland who had previously taken the course and Angela Maskolunas of Valrico.

I came to the FIT facilitators' instruction in order to encourage another woman who wanted to receive FIT certification. Since the instruction was interesting, the time passed quickly. Although I have taken the training previously, I learned some valuable ways of handling questions and responses of class participants. I will be able to apply what I learned as I continue to facilitate FIT classes in a jail, a prison, a rehabilitation center, and a community outreach. As a bonus, I received some insight about myself. Norine Hodder

Can't help by being a volunteer but would like to support our team by providing funds for their support and materials to facilitate with? You can now donate at www.familyintegrity.org and click on [Donate Now](#). One-time and monthly gifts accepted.

Faith-Based or Evidence-Based?

Is FIT faith-based or evidence-based? Actually, it is both, and this can raise suspicions among both communities. The faith community may be wary that the program is not "spiritual enough" and the evidence-based that the findings of best practice are being ignored or even contradicted. It is a shock to many people that biblical concepts and solid practices based on research go hand-in-hand in a great many ways. It is these common area that are emphasized in the FIT program, and we avoid confrontational issues not central to our mission.

Why is this important?

This is important because almost of FIT's efforts are focused on prisons, jails, recovery and community centers where both clients' spiritual and practical social needs are typically addressed. Basic Christian living is addressed as well as community needs. All the FIT courses address both of these issues.

How is this done?

The Bible. The Bible is full of examples of how to be a good Christian by being a good citizen. It has much to say about relationships of all kinds and what Christian maturity should look like. Most of the laws of countries like the United States have a basis in the Bible. Because of separation of church and state in the United States, religious programs are not allowed to work in public institutions unless clients choose them. FIT is fine with this restriction. Many people want a holistic, spiritual approach. Also, there is the restriction that government agencies cannot fund the programs. FIT does not receive government money.

Evidence Based. Judges, Children and Families, and facilities housing our clients can't use our programs unless they also serve a "secular purpose". That is, they must help solve a community problem and have a creditable basis for helping. FIT has developed its program over the past dozen years to incorporate these best practices by working with the needs of our host institutions and clients. Here are some ways we do this. We use small groups and questioning strategies. We do a great deal of listening. We have developed course books over the years that address societal needs, keeping up-to-date with trends and research. Our materials are consistent with effective practices drawn from many different fields, including social work, psychology, and education.

| Crazy things that FIT does ... and | the reason why |
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| FIT is both faith-based and evidence-based | FIT teaches clients to better Christians and better citizens. FIT serves in public places where it has to be evidence based. |
| Graduation certificates are restricted to small groups led by certified facilitators and based on contact hours with a facilitator in a group | This is to insure that the printed materials are used effectively and for maximum application. Participants need a human role model with discussion in a safe and friendly environment. |
| Records are kept at the office on every course graduate. This is expensive and time-consuming. It costs \$5 to mail out just one graduation certificate and these are sent out to every client of a FIT-sponsored group. | Certificates are valued by clients and used to regain custody of children, to follow a case plan, and for sentencing. FIT certificates are legal documents with all the necessary data to be admissible in court. Individual records are kept going back 10 years or more. Itemized reports can be made at any time. |
| Nearly half the FIT budget is spent on providing certified facilitators and their host institutions with course books for free, though we do ask that the books be used over and over to save money. | FIT facilitators cannot personally afford to fund the course books for their sessions and most institutions cannot pay for them because of legal restrictions or lack of budget themselves. |