



Fruitful training held at Gainesville, FL

Excitement was high at our training in Gainesville on April 13. We thank the Greenhouse Church and organizer Cliff Morin for hosting the event. This mostly young group represented many different areas of ministry, interests and applications. Prince Ulame Erese, at right, expressed interest in further preparing

himself for FIT ministry in his native country in Africa and possibly seeing it spread across the continent. A few of the participants are students at the University of Florida. We welcome all of you to the FIT family. Our unifying theme is Jesus Christ, His love for us, and the love for others.

It was also a time for great sharing and fellowship. FIT trainings often include eating together, getting to know each other, sharing ideas, and asking questions. The FIT program is based on maximum verbal interaction of all participants and trainees learn how to be more effective at it. We train facilitators to listen a lot and keep personal speech to a minimum. The course books provide the structure.



MAY FUNDRAISER

MAY FUNDRAISER

MAY FUNDRAISER

TUESDAY
MAY 7
7 AM - 7 PM

Online
www.familyintegrity.org

or Call
941.799.4975

Believe in our program? You can help!
Every gift counts. You make a difference.

- First \$1,000 matched by President Don Pratt
- One-Time Gifts welcome
- Help us even more with a monthly gift
- Free FIT T-Shirt with every \$50/month gift

Success Stories

from facilitator Beverly Shatterly:

Shon Thomas was a participant in our FIT classes. He was released just shy of finishing the complete FIT program.

He has been a testimony of the fruit of our labor. He was released to Jacksonville where he stayed in a building with several other ex felons. He got a job and had to take a bus and rode a bike to work the night shift. He credits his faith in Christ and his participation in FIT as to the reasons for his success. He has been out now for four years and still has two year's probation. God has blessed him with a better job and pay. He has his own car and just recently bought a house with a couple of other friends. He still gives God all the glory.

Letter from Shon:

Hello everyone. My name is Shon Thomas. I hope this letter reaches everybody OK. I was incarcerated for a total of seven years, four of which were spent in Okaloosa Correctional Facility. During my time there I was involved in the re-entry program.

We had to attend various classes to be allowed in the program. By far, the FIT class was the best class I had ever been in. It was taught by kind-hearted people - people who really walk what they are teaching. I would encourage everyone in the program to stay in it, to participate in class, and to soak up as much as possible. Then when you get out you will have the necessary tools you need to make it on the outside. And believe me, you can make it. I've been out now for four years. Don't get me wrong, It's been a challenge , but it helps when you have God and the necessary tools to make it. May God bless you all and keep you. Yours truly, Shon Thomas.

May Events

- May 4 Training Course at Bradenton, FL
- May 7 **FIT Online Fundraiser 7 to 7**
- May 11 Training Course at Brooksville, FL
- May 18 Training Course at Jacksonville, FL

Dear Dr. Pratt,

I would like to share a little of what God is doing through FIT. Charity Naron, who was in the Faith-Based dorm at the Central Jail in Bartow, gave me permission to use her name and testimony. When I met her in the dorm, she said that her parents were Assemblies of God pastors in Colorado. When she said that, I realized that a hundred or more people were praying for her. She told the class that she was abusing five substances for twenty years. A woman who had known her in the General Population before her admission to the Faith-Based dorm said that Charity told the other inmates that drugs were her god. This shocked the women there.

We did several chapters of the *Insight* course while Charity was in jail. Before she was released, she told us that although she had gotten so that she did not want to communicate with her parents, God changed her heart so that she missed them again. She wept in class as she told us this. She was joyful about the change that God had made in her life. Before she left, she asked me to continue praying for her after her release.

As we have been covering the last three chapters of the *Insight* Group book, the women in the Faith-Based dorm have talked about the topics on page 58. After the women shared about their addictions, several of the other women told about the changes that they had seen in them. Recently, seven women announced that they had been baptized in water. (The women are taking other courses besides the one that I am teaching.)

Since I know the pastor of one of the men that was released after taking FIT courses at Polk Correctional Institution, I asked how the former inmate had been doing after his release. He is attending FAM Church in Mulberry and doing well. Blessings, Chaplain Norine Hodder