

What communities does FIT serve?

Whites, blacks, hispanics, anyone, anywhere, rich, poor, educated, uneducated, successful, derelict, Assembly of God, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Armenian, Calvinist - anyone who loves Jesus and the Bible. We concentrate on the things that bind us together and can agree on and not on the things that divide us.

Why do we do this?

- Because we love Jesus and because of this, we love people.
- Because our work takes us outside our churches and denominations to a world dying to have the faith community to help them even if they don't go to or are interested in going to our church .
- Because nearly all of our clients have been in or are in trouble and the institutions they reside in will not invite us in unless we have a solid plan for an unselfish desire to help all that come to us in practical ways that will improve their lives.



Faith-Based or Evidence-Based? or Both?

from Dr. J.D. Sheehan, FIT Board Member and author

We are Christ's ambassadors (2 Cor 5) to a culture increasingly foreign to His kingdom. As such, we're tasked with making the means to reconciliation with Him comprehensible—expanding his kingdom. To do so, we need to know Him and Scripture-based truth intimately and the language and culture we address.

In addition, administrators in the venues FIT serves require value-added training in life-skills. They are under pressure to ensure that evidence-based strategies are used that demonstrably support building citizens who are better equipped to live as effective citizens of local communities. The FIT syllabus, delivered by trained facilitators, serves both purposes.

from Dr. Donald Pratt, FIT President and author

Just this last week, I was talking to Dr. "Paddy" O'Connor about our niche as having one foot in the secular world via "life skills" and the other in the faith community via "faith". We both agreed that FIT serves as an important bridge to really meeting the needs of people in a world where the two communities do not trust each other. As Dr. O'Connor put it, "it doesn't have to be 'either' or 'or' ". Environments like our clients are in require this kind of approach to work. This includes the non-churched, jails, prisons, military service, recovery houses, and homeless.

Dr. O'Connor will be starting our Change of Heart course at the Salt Lake City (UT mission on July 29. He was trained by Founder Ed White on April 4 of this year.

What makes FIT Unique

The Organization

FIT is made up people from all walks of life who want to share Christian love and help people through their darkest hours in effective ways. They want to offer clients the benefit of both best practice and spiritual life in a holistic way.

FIT has a membership that is based on completing a one-day training by a certified FIT instructor. Most members have their own ministries and use FIT to enhance their effectiveness. FIT members receive free course books, both facilitator and group member, for their registered classes as funds permit.

FIT works across denominational lines.

The Curriculum

Development of the FIT curriculum started more than a dozen years ago as a faith-based 100-hour life skills course that would meet Florida requirements for early release of prisoners in the state prisons. It has been continually upgraded over time and is now composed of eight self-contained courses in six different grouping areas `covering the greatest needs of clients. A computer generated certificate is provided for each certified course graduate in each of the courses completed as well as the "100 hour" complete program.

The Clients

The clients are generally poor, in trouble, addicted, homeless, in rehab, or incarcerated.

The Financial Structure

For the above reasons and because our clients and institutions cannot afford or legally pay for materials that contains any religious content, we struggle. We have always struggled. However, because of a combination of increasing one-time and monthly donations, members adding a donation to their renewal fee, and requiring institutions to use the materials over, our financial bottom line is improving. Your contributions do make a difference.

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Next Leader Trainings

Bradenton, FL.....Saturday, August 3, 2019

Jacksonville, FL...Saturday, August 17, 2019

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