



## Loving Others



from the desk of President Don Pratt:

John 20:15-17. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

If we love Jesus, we are to take His words and mission seriously, not just give it lip service. Our mission is to show our love by showing love and concern for the needs of His people.

It is significant that Jesus asked Peter if he loved him three times. Peter had already denied him that many times and three is used in the Bible as showing special emphasis. Hot-tempered John, the “son of thunder”, was to become the apostle of love. Jesus had changed him and he was to get past his past and move on as a profoundly changed man. He would write five books of the Bible. Four of the five would have the themes of “God’s love” and “brotherly love”.

When I moved away from Florida in the 1980s I was determined to never come back. There was too much crime, too much prejudice, and too many people who did not share my values. Be careful about your attitude because I was led right back here to love the poor and disadvantaged. It was then that I came to understand them better and their needs. They were people who were not used to being loved or having anyone listen to them. They were people of little power and could not help me climb the social ladder. I had to climb down to them and help them climb a little higher.

Then I found that they started to respond to me and that I would become a leader among like-minded people who wanted to serve Jesus in the same way.

Being loved means everything. It is universal. It has been proven that babies can actually die if their physical needs are met but they are not handled and shown connection.

We show our love to others by listening. By caring. By praying. By supporting their ministry.

## NEWS

## Nine more Trained Online

*They came from Florida, New Hampshire, and the United Kingdom*

Trained were husband and wife Randy and Rebecca Kelle of Bradenton, FL; Harry Farrar and Robert Kerr from CrossPointe Fellowship of Holmes Beach, FL; Sabrilla Smart of Lakeland, FL; Jillian Davis from The Path Rescue Mission, Beverly Hills, FL; David Tillman, chaplain at Taylor Correctional Institution, Perry, FL; Robert Rock of Bow, NH, and husband and wife Olivier and Anne-Marie Kouao of London, England (Olivier had previously been trained).



Thank you very much for sending me your Newsletters! I am actually listening to the FIT Evidence Based webinar from your website, now! Very informative and interesting.

I thank you soooooo much for your calling to reach out and deeply touch "the least of these."

We are just beginning our first Faith & Character Dorm at Sumter CI. Although FIT classes have been Volunteer-Led and Peer-Led at Sumter CI for years, FIT will become an integral part of our new program, as well! Peer Leader Gary Tillman is excited to bring more classes to the men here.

As always, I am very grateful for the amazing experience and research that has been put into the various FIT curriculums, to truly meet the needs of the men and women who are incarcerated!

**YOU ARE CHANGING LIVES!**

Psalm 31:24 Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

Most Sincerely,

Deborah Williams, Senior Chaplain

Faith & Character Program  
Sumter Correctional Institution  
Florida Department of Corrections.



additional comment: As a Chaplain, I cannot say enough GOOD about the FIT courses! I was first introduced to FIT at the Florida Women's Reception Center. Also had several of the FIT courses offered at Hernando C.I., and now at Sumter CI. I appreciate your dedication to QUALITY and BIBLICALLY Based Morality in the curriculum!!



**Thank you Chaplain Williams for your encouraging words! Our organization exists to support the efforts of institutions such as yours as well as the individual ministries of our members.**

As to reaching out to "the least of these", we are again featuring our theme song "the Least, the Last, and the Lost" on our website as background to our newly updated "Quick Facts" slideshow about the facilities in which we serve. [www.familyintegrity.org](http://www.familyintegrity.org).

**You can**



**to**



**but you  
can't make  
him**



We don't force anything down anyone's throat. But we do try to make them thirsty for the better life by showing them love, the Christian way of life, and listening to them.