



Behind the Scenes ...

Much goes on "behind the scenes" to insure the effectiveness and integrity of our program. Our motto

"developing life skills through faith"

is no exception.

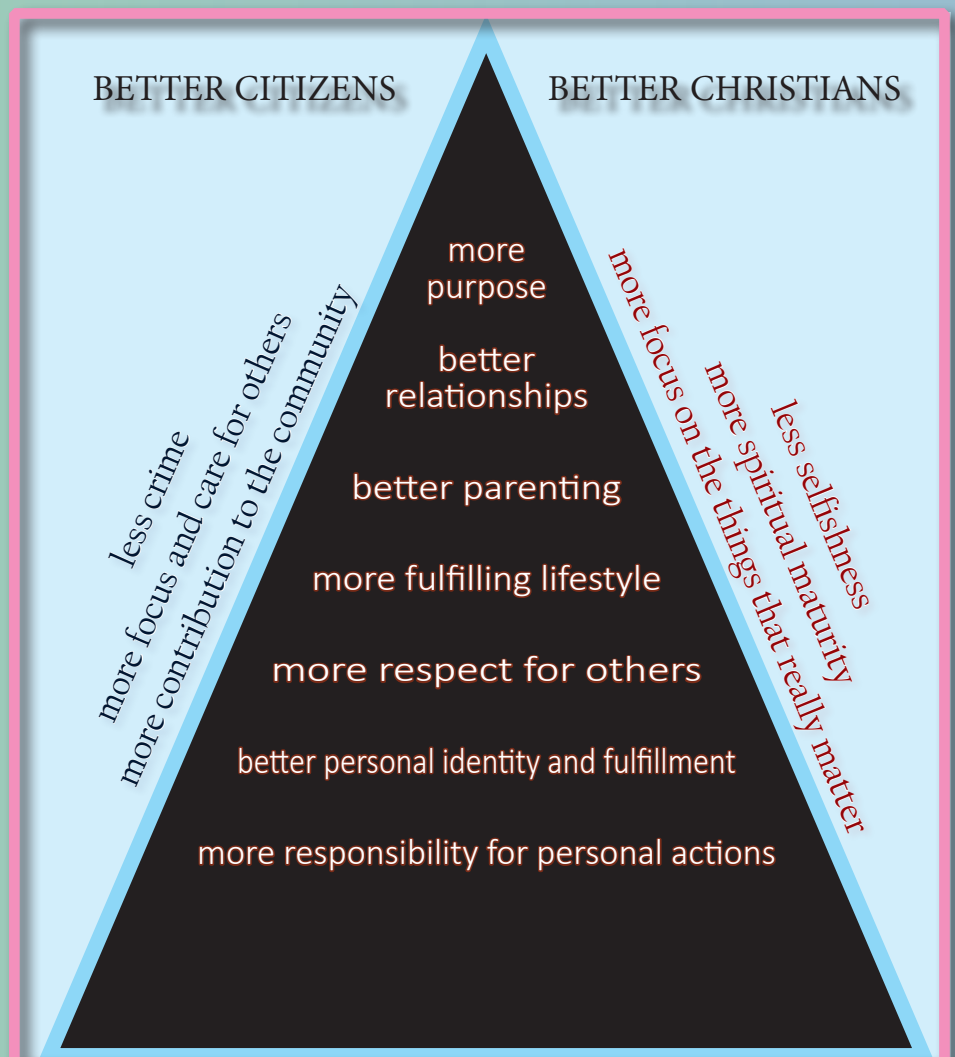
"Life skills", as we define them, are personal skills that will make us successful in society. They include anger management, parenting, dating and marriage, grief and addiction management, financial stability, forgiveness,

restitution, and good citizenship.

These skills are important in both the secular and religious communities and are what FIT focuses on. The two communities do not always trust each other, though, and FIT faces additional challenges because of it.

There are many in the secular community who want no part of anything religious. One person told me that all-secular programs are the best because then everybody can benefit from them. This, of course, excludes spiritual material that many people want in their program. For the record, FIT does not "cram anything down anyone's throat". It is a Christian program that people of other faiths or no faith sometimes elect to take and are welcome to get out of it what they can. And they do.

One basis of our motto is the personal actualization of becoming all that you can become. This applies to both secular society and the religious community. In short, you become a better Christian by being a better citizen and you become a better citizen by becoming a better Christian. The graphic at the right shows some of these common features.





In our last Newsletter, we detailed our history in obtaining approval to operate our program in state and local government facilities. This approval is especially important to us because we are almost totally dependent on these facilities to let us in to minister to the needs of our clients. The great majority of our clients are in public institutions such as prisons and jails. Even the non-public facilities are affected because their clients need to satisfy conditions of parole and court orders handed down at the time of sentencing and these often include courses that we offer, such as anger management and parenting.

Due to our status of being a religious organization serving a secular purpose, we sometimes have approval to offer our programs to clients on a voluntary basis. As mentioned last month, this status changes by agency and institution and within them from time to time.

We are pleased to announce that FIT has received official notification from Johnny Frambo, Chaplaincy Services Administrator, of the Florida Department of Corrections, with the following citation:

"Family Integrity Training (FIT) is a wonderful program and has always been offered in Chaplaincy programming"



Institutions opening up

We have received word that the following institutions have reopened to our FIT facilitators: Sarasota County Jail, Hernando County Detention Center, Polk County Jail, Orange County Jail,

Lowell Correctional Institution (women), Sumter Correctional Institution (men). We often minister to both men and women in jails .



response to May Newsletter:

Good morning from South Carolina! Great news, so glad to hear things are moving along, praise God! Prayers for all of you. Looking forward to serving after the summer. We will be traveling for the first time since the pandemic. God bless, Rev Naomi Mattei.



THIS MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED BY FIT AND OTHER CHAPLAINCY PROGRAMS AT SUMTER CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

I am soooooo grateful for what is happening at Sumter CI!!! As we are fully open now, the Chapel Calendar dates are filling up, your teams are coming in, and the experiences for the men have been amazing!! ...And the betterment Programs are reintroducing these guys to the purpose of true manhood...!!

This Chaplain's heart is full and grateful and very blessed. Thank you, Faithful Ones. Thank you. And please share this with your team-members. We love and appreciate you all!

Deborah Williams, Senior Chaplain, Faith & Character Program Director, Sumter Correctional Institution, Florida Department of Corrections, 9544 C.R. 476b, Bushnell, FL 33513