

**\$5,000**

**2023 Spring Fundraiser**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023\***

**Click the "Donate Now" button on our home page and type "Fundraiser" in the Comment box. You can also donate with a check the same way. Set up a fundraiser page on your Facebook page!\*\***

\*Funds donated April 24-28 will count toward the fundraiser

\*\*Call the office for assistance

### From the President's Desk

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 25, the day of our Spring Fundraiser. We receive nearly all of our income from donations. This event, along with our Fall Fundraiser, represents an important part of the funds that we need to operate. All gifts received that week, April 24-28, will be applied to the Fundraiser but check our website on the 25th for regular updates throughout the day. Please remember us. It is hard for us to raise funds because we are spread out so much and because our type of ministry is not as popular or high profile as others are.



Also, we would like to point out that many of our course books are available in Spanish. Those that are in stock right now include facilitator and participant guides for *Anger Dynamics [La Dinámica del Enojo]*, *Dating and Marriage [Noviazgo y Matrimonio]*, *Insight [Descubra el camino al carácter cristiano]*, and *Free to Grow [Libre para Crecer]*. *Coping with the Losses of Life* should also be available in Spanish by the end of the year as well as our Leader Handbook.

### Inside Out Network (ION) Project needs our help

The ION organization (see description below) is preparing a list to advertise church congregations who will work with inmates reentering society. ION will also mention FIT as a valuable resource. We have the same goal: enabling regular church people to be effective in helping inmates (and society) return to productive living. At the end of the description below, click on the survey form if your church is interested.

The Inside Out Network (ION), a non-profit that connects people leaving incarceration with ministries and service providers who want to help them, is undertaking a broad survey of what's happening in congregation-based reentry ministry. Their goal is to gather insights from churches of various sizes and geographical locations and then create a practical how-to guide, "Effective Reentry Ministry for Ordinary Congregations," that will empower more churches to engage in reentry ministry in a way that fits them.

Can you help by sharing what's going on in this area of ministry at your church by completing a short survey? The survey should take only about 10-15 minutes to complete. Your input will be a real blessing to the many churches out there that want to minister with and to returning citizens who need some help getting started.

Here's the survey link: [Reentry Congregations Initiative Survey](#)

February Graduations

53

### **From Betty, our Office Manager**

Shipping prices have gone up several times in the last year as well as the length of time to receive it. This affects our office efficiency in our efforts to provide you with first-class service.



**Please** let us and the post office know your address change. When submitting a forwarding address form to the post office, send one to your old post office and another to your new post office about a week later. This will usually eliminate any problems you have. Also, be aware that the Post Office only forwards your mail for 6 months from one address to another.

**When** requesting books for a new class, order at least 2 1/2 weeks in advance. Certificates are shipped first class and we do our best to get them out to you by the next day; however, there are times when we may not get them out until the 3rd day.

**We can make flyers** that may be used to promote your class. Would you like us to make something like that to post in your ministry location? If so, give us the details you want on the flyer and we will print, laminate, and mail an 8-1/2x11 poster to you. Allow plenty of time for us to prepare it for you.

**April 25, 2023**, is the beginning of our first of two Annual Fundraisers that allows us to do the ministry God has called to do. There is only ONE way that we can keep this ministry of winning souls going and that is through the regular, timely gifts received from our volunteers and partners. No donation is too small. Some people have been abundantly blessed financially and can give much financial help.

Some are blessed in many ways, maybe not with a lot of money, but can give out of their hearts of love with what they have. Others have very little money and can barely pay to have a roof over their head, but still sacrifice and give what they can because they have a heart of love for Jesus and others. Ask yourself this question, Jesus which of these categories do I fit in? What would you have me do to help this organization, that I see and love what they are doing for His Kingdom. I want to please you with my gift to help them. I believe He will direct you and tell you what to do with a cheerful heart. Just remember every single penny is important to our God who sees a cheerful giver and rewards them abundantly. See our website for details.

### **Dead Time**



While facilitating a class at one of the Correctional Institutions (CIs), one of our students mentioned that there were several inmates that were doing “dead time”. Not hearing that term before, I asked what dead time meant. The inmate replied that a prisoner not taking any classes or trying to improve themselves and were just marking off the days until release was dead timing.

That made sense to me. As I thought about it, there could be dead timing Christians, who have accepted Christ as their savior, but haven’t gotten into the Word, joined a church, or become a part of a Sunday School class. Maybe they go on Sundays, but leave Christianity as soon as the leave church.

As facilitators, we have a responsibility to make sure that we aren’t creating dead timers in our groups. We must not preach. We need to set expectations. We are aiming for a fully interactive class. We must not judge or grade what they say!

We can make sure that we interact with them, talk with them and find out where they call home. Do they have a nickname? Positively comment on what that made you think about after they responded. Had you ever thought about that? Bring back a memory from the last class. Be as transparent as possible. If you aren’t, why should they?

Our upcoming fund raiser is an important part of who Family Integrity Training (FIT) is. As we head into our seventeenth year, the kindness of God represented in your support has reached many throughout the years. Please consider giving so we can reach more for Christ.