

From the President's Desk

We were excited to have met our \$5,000 Spring Fundraiser goal and promised to update you as to how many additional funds would come in. No extra amounts came in. We could have used the extra income as our office has suffered several additional challenges in the past few months. First, a lightning strike destroyed our computer, phone, and internet system and it took us days to diagnose the problem, replace equipment and restore operations. Second, we faced unprecedented software challenges and price increases as the industry moves from fixed desktop programs to subscription cloud-based ones. We run on a very tight budget but get a lot done considering our small resources.



Speaking of trying to do big things with little resources, we are very aware of the tremendous challenges that our facilitators are facing. It is tough work, there are many disappointments and often little appreciation shown. The needs of our clients are often overwhelming. But to our facilitators we say “thank you” for a job well done. We in the FIT family truly appreciate you and what you are doing. We have created a short video entitled “Unafraid” to show our appreciation and inspire you to be all you can be in the work of the Lord. You can view the verbal message by clicking on the following link: <https://vimeo.com/832965405>. When done click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5oOvZSaNM0> to see and hear the music as performed by the Hour of Power choir.

Finally, we encourage our members to become involved in the work of our committees. We are in the process of expanding the work of these committees to meet present and future challenges of our organization. The committees meet electronically at least twice each quarter to make recommendations to the Board. If you would like to help, contact the office at fit@100hour.org. Basic requirements are current FIT membership and a commitment to serve.

New Shirts Coming!



Board member John Woods is shown wearing a royal blue and a black polo-type shirts with a FIT logo. The prices and colors have not been set. We will announce the shirts soon after everything has been agreed upon.



I have been teaching the FIT curriculum for several years and started a book that made an immediate impact on the class and facilitator! *Coping with the Losses in Life* reminded me that we have all encountered losses in our lives. In one group of five men, I found that one had lost 3 close family members this year, while another lost 2. The book is well-written and the reproducible handouts are easy to use and are very effective. It appears to have a profound effect upon the incarcerated population as these classes have grown. I have deferred to the *Dating and Marriage* book because it is often requested, but have found that *Coping* has a strong affect on the men in prison. I have been told that it has the same pull on women as well. I would rate this as one of the strongest courses we have.

On April 21st I attended a Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at one of the prisons I visit. One of the Chaplains spoke from Micah 6:8. "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God". The Message Bible says: "But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love and don't take yourself too seriously-take God seriously."WT

I was particularly hit by the part for us to love mercy, to be compassionate. The Message rubbed it in by mentioning in the first part that God has already made it plain how to live, what to do, what He is looking for in us. Ouch!

So, who was my first example? Because Good Friday and Easter had just past, I thought of Christ. Let me think... First He was betrayed by Judas, lied about, denied by Peter, spit in His face, mocked, slapped and finally beat in the face. And this was the Sanhedrin! After that, it was all downhill.

Matthew 26:53 told us that Jesus at any time could have called His Father and instantly have more than 12 legions of Angels. Christ knew that Scripture needed to be fulfilled. I believe that as ugly as it got, God's plan and Jesus' love of mercy, stayed Him on His journey to the cross and beyond.

What was God thinking? If it was my only son, could my love of mercy keep me from destroying the wicked and saving my son? Oh my!

So, where do I go from here? My thoughts are to have compassion and loyalty in my love for those who even hate me. Can I do it? Do I react out of my hurt or act out of God's love? That's on me. How about you?

-John Ringleb