

The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado



Fall/Winter 2025

Serving Christ Jesus

Connecting With My Partners

I love my job! I could not do this without the prayers and financial support of you my partners.

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7 (NIV)

This Christmas will be very different for my maternal side of the family. My sister-in-law Carol passed in July after a lengthy illness, and my mother's little brother Derwin (age 93) passed in November. Then, my precious mother Nelda passed on November 28. We miss Mom, Uncle Derwin, and Carol terribly; however, we have incredible joy and peace knowing all three of our loved ones are with Jesus for eternity.

2025 is ending in ways I could not imagine. I am writing my newsletter with my left leg out to the side propped up on a chair. I broke my ankle on Monday, December 1, when I was getting my Christmas decorations out of storage. My storage is in our building basement. When I fell, one of my neighbors Tom was folding his laundry, and at the same time, another neighbor Leann was coming down to start her laundry. It was a God-thing that they were right there to help me up and get up the stairs. Tom had called his wife Lisa (a CNA who does home care), and she met me at the top of the stairs with a wheelchair. Then Lisa drove me to Kaiser Urgent Care for treatment. I feel humbled and blessed at how many people have reached out to help me by walking Sophie, bringing meals, decorating my condo for Christmas, and more! Of course, my dear daughter Amy is very involved in helping me and taking me to appointments with the orthopedic doctor. I am so blessed.

I am also so humbled and blessed by how the Lord uses the TUMI of Colorado ministry to reach people with the Gospel of Christ Jesus and especially to grow and equip disciples in serving Christ. The biggest part of our ministry is offering the TUMI Capstone Program, also known as Church-Based Seminary, to those who would probably not be able to afford or take time due to family or job responsibilities. I myself was a blessed receiver of the gift of the TUMI seminary program and have had unimaginable opportunities as a disciple/Chaplain/Pastor to serve Christ Jesus. See **TUMI Capstone Program** on page 2.

World Impact's Trauma Healing course has been a big blessing addition to our TUMI of Colorado programs. Over the last two years, we have been able to minister to many people wounded by their life experiences. We just



Blessed to have World Impact's Karin and Rich Esselstrom visit Crosswind Church. Left to right Pastor Ramon Navarro, Rich, Karin, Guia Navarro, and me

completed another six-week Adult course. We also offered the Trauma Healing course geared for inmates at the Federal prison in Englewood. And now, we are offering a new trauma healing program that is geared for teens. Christian and I spent a week in Dallas taking the Facilitator training, and we are excited to offer this program also. See **NEW Trauma Healing Program for Teens** on page 2. Also see **Trauma Healing Facilitator Training** on page 3.

On September 27 we conducted another successful Onesimus Workshop hosted by Harvey Park Christian Church in Denver. See **Onesimus Workshop** on page 3

Sometimes Christian and I get to serve the Lord, in ways that are out of our normal work scope. On September 29, we were invited to participate in World Impact CEO Alvin Sander's "Dream Session" on Zoom with other prison ministry leaders to discuss new programs planned for World Impact prison ministry in 2026. In his invitation to us, he shared "Your voice, wisdom, and faith are all part of this journey." We felt honored that he wanted our input.

Also Crosswind Church hosted a Pastors Vision Camp November 17-19 that encouraged churches to be involved in training up their members as missionaries to serve in non-Christian nations throughout the world. My pastor Ramon Navarro strongly encouraged all our church leaders to attend. Pastor Paul Choi from South Korea spoke each day on equipping ourselves to obey the Great Commission. The camp was 10 hours each day, and I met pastors and missionaries from all over the world. I love to pray for and financially support our Crosswind missionaries.

(Continued on page 2 – top of page)

TIME SENSITIVE We value your support through advocacy, generosity, and prayers for The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) of Colorado ministry. For the first time, we are participating in **Colorado Gives Day**. You can still give through Tuesday, December 9. I invite you to join us in making a lasting impact on the successful outreach of this ministry. See **Time-Sensitive Giving** on page 2 for the link to donate to TUMI of Colorado.

Your Servant-in Christ,

Chaplain Kris Briggs

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."
Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

TUMI Capstone Program

The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) of Colorado offers the TUMI Capstone Program, a ministry of World Impact. This program is a comprehensive, seminary-like, discipleship development program (16 modules) with curriculum covering everything needed to prepare God-called disciples for sharing the Gospel of Christ Jesus and effective ministry—whether in a local community on the outside or inside a prison community.

The required, prerequisite Fight the Good Fight course has become very popular on the outside and inside the prisons. On the outside, our students come from many Churches in the Denver Metro area. In the prisons, our TUMI students are always recruiting inmates to take the course. Our students get of a taste of walking closer and more intimately with Jesus, and I get to watch the Holy Spirit guide and direct them into serving Him with their gifts and talent. I am so amazed at the different types of ministry my students have gone into.



Spring Fight the Good Fight class at Crosswind Church. Left to right: Joanne Cervantes, Peggy Knoworoski, Gary Vittorelli, me, and Matt Cubbison.

Out of the Fight the Good Fight courses, many decide to go into the TUMI Capstone seminary-like program and we continue to build up the student body at all TUMI locations—Aurora, Centennial, and two prisons.

To check out how you can join us for the next Fight the Good Fight course, contact me at 303-956-7898.

Time-Sensitive Giving



TUMI of Colorado is excited to participate in Colorado Gives Day. **Colorado Gives Day runs now through December 9, 2025**. Your financial generosity will help us sustain and grow our ministry as we expand from the Denver area throughout Colorado.

1. Go to <https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/Urban-Ministry-Institute-Of-Colorado> to access the Colorado Gives page for The Urban Ministry of Colorado.
2. On our page, click **Donate** and follow the steps.

NOTE: If you set up a new monthly recurring donation, the Colorado Gives Foundation will match your first monthly gift up to \$100 (and up to \$250K total across all organizations)!

NEW! Trauma Healing Program for Teens

In July, Christian and I participated in a week-long Facilitator Certification training for World Impact's



Healing Teens' Wounds of Trauma course. The Trauma Healing course we offer now is very adult-focused. The Teen Trauma Healing course is unique to what interests teens and includes a special Teen Facilitator workbook using teen-related, scripture-based topics and activities.

As a Certified Counselor, I counsel with teens who are facing challenging trauma and pressure in their young lives, and they are exhibiting negative behaviors that are impacting their family life, friendships, teacher relationships, etc.

The Teen Trauma Healing course was designed for ages 14 through 18. It provides a Bible-based interactive group course for teens addressing questions that they *(Continued on page 3 – upper-right column)*

Onesimus Workshop

The Onesimus Workshop is designed to help churches discuss the hard issues of reentry ministry; understand a Biblical view of prison ministry and prison culture; and encourage them to welcome and empower Christian returned citizens.

On September 27 we conducted another successful Onesimus Workshop hosted by Pastor Thom Albin at Harvey Park Christian Church in Denver. Please listen to Pastor Albin's video that explains why hosting an Onesimus Workshop was so important for his church.

[Harvey Park-Onesimus-promo.mp4](#)



Pastor Thom Albin and Detra & Damian Wildy at Onesimus Workshop

We heard from our formerly incarcerated speakers how difficult it is for released prisoners to succeed outside the prison. We also heard from a spouse how difficult it can be for family members when their loved one returns home after incarceration. Christian and I shared success stories of how our released TUMI students and graduates are serving the Lord on the outside.

The workshop was packed with great information about how imperative it is for Christian ex-offenders to have a place to worship, fellowship, and serve. The church plays a key role in mentoring, encouraging, and incorporating ex-offenders into their congregation.

On the Workshop Evaluation form, one participant commented: "A look into a culture I only knew from TV. ... Thank you Lord for a path back to righteousness." Another participant wrote: "I have learned so much about prison life that I was unaware of before. I think this will help me relate better to those I meet who have served in prison."

Praise the Lord! Much fruit for sharing our TUMI of Colorado Prison Ministry programing came out of this workshop!

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NEW! Trauma Healing Program for Teens (continued)

sometimes struggle with. Teens learn to tell their story, connect with feelings, and build skills to cope with the difficulties of life. It also provides them with an opportunity to connect with others their age in a meaningful way. We promote a safe place where teens can begin to find healing from some of the hurts they have had in life.

During the training, we took the same course that the teens take with all the art sessions, skits, and activities. It was fun but exhausting!! ☺



Trauma Healing Facilitator Training

We continue to add to our Trauma Healing Facilitator Team. Currently, we have five Advanced Facilitators and two Apprentice Facilitators on our team.

Initial Equipping Trauma Healing Facilitator Training

After taking the Trauma Healing course, two participants—Catherine McHenry and Greg Speer—were impressed with the healing experience they received through the program, and shared that they "want to give back." Catherine and Greg took the Initial Equipping Trauma Healing Facilitator training on Saturday, October 25. They are now Apprentice Facilitators and will help facilitate two

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Onesimus Workshop (continued)

Harvey Park Christian Church members who attended the workshop indicated they would like to be involved in identifying a vision for prison ministry at their church. We are also working with other ministries who want to invest in using our programming.



Onesimus Workshop at Harvey Park Christian Church

A big thank you goes out to all our speakers who shared from their hearts:

- Detra Wildy, Reintegration Specialist and TUMI graduate
- Julian Bak, Harvey Park Deacon and former TUMI student
- Rose (rock star mom) and Edward Lewis (former TUMI student), Christian entrepreneurs
- Chaplain Matt Berg, Lead Chaplain, Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) – Englewood and TUMI advocate
- Debra Baty, Treatment Provider/Evaluation/Clinical supervisor and TUMI advocate
- Jim Blum, Director of My Father's House Denver



Christian, Chaplain Berg, and Julian reunite

Big kudos go to the Harvey Park Christian Church team—Pastor Thom Albin, Julian Bak, Justin Molnar, and Rob Northway—for all their hard work partnering with Christian Paetsch and me in planning and hosting the workshop. Also kudos to our TUMI of Colorado team members Greg Speer, Brett Westerfield, Kris Katzenmeyer, and Detra Wilder.

If you or your church would like to know more about the Onesimus Workshop or schedule one, contact me at 303-956-7898.

Trauma Healing Facilitator Training (continued)

full Trauma Healing courses before they can take the Advanced Facilitator training. We were happy to have World Impact's Master Trauma Healing Instructor Karin Esselstrom back to do their training. Christian and I are training to become Master instructors. During the training, we led some of the course sessions.

Advanced Trauma Healing Facilitator Training

Gary Vittorelli, Elder and Counselor at Crosswind Community Church, completed his Initial Equipping Facilitator Training last year and then completed the requirements as Intern Facilitators to help lead two different courses. In September and October, Gary participated in online Advanced Trauma Healing Facilitator training that included participants from around the country. Karin Esselstrom and other World Impact trainers led the sessions.



Karin Esselstrom awarding Gary Vittorelli his Advanced Trauma Healing Facilitator Certificate

Master Trauma Healing Training (Train the Trainer)

Christian and I are starting the steps to become **Master Trainers** of the Trauma Healing Facilitators. As the trainers, we won't have to rely on the schedules and expense of World Impact trainers coming from out of state. In addition, we will be able to train Trauma Healing Facilitators (TUMI graduates) in the prisons.

If you are interested in adding the Trauma Healing program (and the Facilitator Training) at your church or ministry, contact me at 303-956-7898.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for my left ankle and shin to heal completely without surgery
- Prayer to raise my needed financial support for 2026.
- Prayer over starting the TUMI Capstone Program at new locations.
- Prayer for much needed additional TUMI of Colorado staff and volunteers. Contact me if interested.

This newsletter is a publication of TUMI of Colorado. You have received this newsletter because you are an advocate, prayer partner, supporter, or participant in this ministry. Thank you for your contributions!
Please forward this newsletter to a friend.



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Please consider me in your end-of-year 2025 donations.

The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado (coloradotumi.org) is a non-profit ministry (ID 92-1369802). Thank you for partnering with me—your prayers and financial support—as together we serve Jesus Christ in Denver, in Colorado, in prisons, and around the world. Please consider a one-time or monthly donation for my continued support when making decisions for your ministry giving.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ for TUMI of Colorado.

Please make your check payable to “The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado,” and designate “Support for Kris Briggs” on the memo line.

Mail to: The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado, 16350 East Arapahoe Road, Suite 108-147, Foxfield, CO 80016

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

You will receive a receipt along with our warmest thanks!

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The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) of Colorado Donation Instructions

You can make donations to TUMI of Colorado by check or online.

Payment Method	Instructions
Check	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Make check payable to The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado, and write Support for Kris Briggs on the Memo line.2. Mail your check to the address above with the receipt filled out.
Online	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Go to https://www.coloradotumi.org/, and click Donate Today!2. On the Donate page, click Donate Now.3. In the Enter Donation Amount box, type the amount you are donating.4. Click One-time or Monthly as appropriate, and then click Checkout.5. At the top of the Checkout page, in the Add a note for the seller box below the dollar amount you are donating, type Support for Kris Briggs.6. Complete the online payment process.

Questions? Contact Chaplain Kris Briggs at 303-956-7898 or coloradotumi.kris@gmail.com.