

The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado



Spring/Summer 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.

So much has happened since the Fall/Winter newsletter. This issue of The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) of Colorado newsletter is a little different than usual. It still includes information about the many ministry programs we offer, but I am also including some reports about information that I think you will find interesting.

A big part of our TUMI of Colorado ministry is taking the TUMI Capstone Program, seminary-like program into prisons. However, we also have a *thriving* TUMI Capstone Program at two locations on the outside that are not focused on prison ministry. See **TUMI Capstone Program Outside** on page **3**

Our next Onesimus Workshop is being hosted by Pastor Thom Albin at Harvey Park Christian Church in Denver. We have not set the date as of this newsletter; however, if you missed the Onesimus Workshops held in the past, I encourage you to attend this workshop. Also bring your pastor or one of the leaders in your church. **Watch for my SAVE THE DATE email going out soon with the date and registration information.** See **Onesimus Workshop** on page **3** to read the sweet story about Pastor Albin wanting the Onesimus Workshop at his church.

In March, we started a new 6-session Trauma Healing course at Crosswind Community Church. This is the 5th time we have offered the course. We are so blessed to witness vulnerable people being led safely and effectively through trauma healing. Many who took the course want to give back and expressed interest in the Facilitator Training. See **Trauma Healing Program** on page **4**.

Sometimes I get to serve the Lord in ways that are out of my normal work scope. On Mother's Day, May 11, I had



the honor and blessing of preaching the message at Crosswind Community Church. My pastor wanted a woman to preach, so he asked me. I shared about the sincere faith of Timothy's mother Eunice and grandmother Lois that the Apostle Paul wrote about in 2 Timothy 1:5. *"I am reminded of your **sincere faith**, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."* (NIV). The Greek word for "sincere" means "un-disguised." In English, it means free from pretense or deceit; proceeding from genuine feelings. I also shared that, in addition, it takes a village to raise up a child to faith in Jesus—such as dads, grandads, Sunday school teachers, Christian coaches, etc. In Timothy's case, the Apostle Paul became a Christian father-like figure

in his life. The message came out just as I prayed it would. You can listen to my sermon at

<https://www.youtube.com/live/gWDMnmVJzMw?si=C5dkEcqiO2Z-sw8G>

We are in the process of adding a new prison location to take in The Urban Ministry Institute Capstone Program (aka Church-Based Seminary). Praise the Lord that He provided a great Mentor Team to lead the classes. See more information in **Prison Ministry** on page **4**

Christian and I are so blessed to have a strong Board of Directors. On Saturday, March 29, the TUMI of Colorado Board of Directors held its first Strategic Planning Meeting. The strategic planning meeting helped us focus on aligning our TUMI of Colorado ministry's unique gifts and resources that God has given us. See **TUMI of Colorado Board of Directors – Strategic Meeting** on page **5**.

(Continued on page 2)

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)



The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado offers The Urban Ministry Institute 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 leaders for effective ministry in and through the church. It is an excellent tool to prepare men and women as disciples of the gospel of Christ Jesus.

Check out how you can join us for the next module at our Denver Metro locations. Contact me at 303-956-7898 for locations, days, and times.

(Continued from page 1)- I love my job!.

TUMI of Colorado has been blessed over the first two years as a non-profit ministry to have Mike Dicke as our Interim President. If you don't already know, Mike brought the TUMI seminary-like program to Denver in 2010. Early on, people from other countries started referring him to share the TUMI Capstone Program with family and friends in their home country. He and Mary, his wife and TUMI ministry partner, travelled to many countries world-wide to introduce the TUMI program. Since then, Mike has moved into a full-time position with World Impact's TUMI International arm of the ministry. Mike's responsibilities in this role have grown substantially, so he has stepped down from the Board. On May, 17, we voted in a President of the Board to fill Mike's role. See [TUMI of Colorado Board of Directors – New Officers](#) on page [5](#)

Christian and I were so excited that our TUMI of Colorado Board approved our attending the Correctional Ministries and Chaplains Association (CMCA) Summit in Orlando, Florida Thursday, May 1 through Saturday, May 3. Many of those we partner with in prison ministry annually attend the CMCA Summit each year. It is a large, well-attended event that provides all kinds of activities, plenaries, workshops, and social gatherings for those serving in correctional ministry. The summit was a powerful reminder of the collective commitment to transforming lives for the gospel of Jesus Christ through correctional ministry. See [CMCA Summit](#) on page [5](#).

Your Servant-in Christ,

Chaplain Kris Briggs

TUMI Capstone Program Outside

TUMI of Colorado has added so many educational programs in the last few years. It's been awhile since I focused on the outside (not prison-related) classes we offer for The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) Capstone Program—aka church-based seminary. At our outside locations, we provide seminary-like opportunities to individuals who have always wanted to go to seminary but could not for various reasons such as unaffordable, family responsibilities, job restrictions, etc. I was one of those people who attended the TUMI courses on the outside. I always wanted to go to seminary and could not afford it. Taking those courses transformed my life. In 2013, I joined the TUMI staff in Denver, my home church ordained me in 2015, and I served as an associate Pastor from May 2019 to October 2022 at an Aurora church. Throughout these 12 years, I continued to work for TUMI in Denver.

The TUMI Capstone Program is a ministry of World Impact. This program is an affordable, comprehensive, seminary-like, discipleship development program (16 modules) with curriculum covering everything needed to prepare God-called men and women as disciples of Christ Jesus and equip them to share His gospel with their family members, in their neighborhoods and communities, and wherever they go. Students can earn a "Certificate in Christian Leadership Service" (32 credit hours).

Over the 14 years here in the Denver Metropolitan area, we have had three graduations. Many of our students have gotten involved in serving in leadership positions in their church, serving in Christian ministries and missions, becoming chaplains and pastors, and even planting churches. All of our students continually share Jesus with anyone they meet.

TUMI classes on the outside can be held in churches, at ministry sites, and even at home. Currently, we offer TUMI Capstone Program classes at two locations in the Denver Metropolitan area.

- Crosswind Community Church in Aurora on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.
- Fellowship Community Church in Centennial on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 PM

How do I apply to take the TUMI Capstone Program

First, we require that you take a 10-week bible course based on Ephesians called "Fight the Good Fight of Faith" that encourages new Christians as well as seasoned Christians into discipleship and serving in their church and community. Taking this course, sets you up for success in taking the college-level, seminary-like program and being comfortable with the homework requirements. Upon completion of Fight the Good Fight of Faith, you will receive a Student Application to apply for the TUMI Capstone Program.

If you would like to know more about attending our TUMI Capstone Program seminary-like courses, contact me at 303-956-7898.

Onesimus Workshop



**- Coming in the Fall -
Onesimus Workshop
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Date TBD.**

**Watch for SAVE THE DATE
emails announcements**

Harvey Park Christian Church
3401 South Lowell Boulevard
Denver, Colorado 80236
Contact Chaplain Kris at
303-956-7898 (leave message)

Onesimus, which means "useful," was a runaway slave who became Paul's helpful protégé while in prison. While still in prison, Paul wrote a letter to Onesimus's master Philemon, encouraging him to receive Onesimus back as a believer and a brother. According to ancient traditions, Onesimus was a Bishop in the early Christian Church.

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.

I can't tell you how excited I am when I hear that a pastor wants to host an Onesimus Workshop at their church. One of my former students who attended the TUMI Capstone Program at the mens Federal prison was released a few years ago and asked me to call his pastor Tom Albin at Harvey Park Christian Church.

I did follow up with Pastor Albin and was so touched by his words. He shared that his church is located near the Federal prison half-way house where inmates live for a period of time upon release to the Denver area. Released Christian inmates have a hard time finding churches that will allow them to worship with them. He shared that Harvey Park Christian Church allows released prisoners to attend their church and if desired to become members. He also shared that many of these men have gotten involved in serving in their church and have been a blessing to their congregation. They are an older congregations and feel like they are "grandparents" to these men.

Pastor Albin needed to present all the information that I provided to him about the Onesimus Workshop to his church leadership and said he would get back to me. Later, I received this email message from him:

"Our congregation, Harvey Park Christian Church, would very much like to host an Onesimus Workshop! We have discussed this quite a bit and quite enthusiastically. We have heard no dissenting voices. We are ready to proceed!"

Christian and I are meeting next week with Pastor Albin to set a date and plan for the workshop. Watch for my "SAVE THE DATE" emails that will provide the registration information.

Trauma Healing Program



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. Using this

Scripture-based course, we can help our participants work through their trauma and loss in a way that is helping rather than harmful. As they experience Christ's love and healing, our participants move forward on their trauma healing journey by leaving their pain at the cross and beginning to forgive those who hurt them. It's beautiful to watch!

If you would like to know more about the six-week Trauma Healing course, contact me at 303-956-7898.

Initial Equipping Trauma Healing Facilitator Training

At the completion of our last 6-week Trauma Healing course, three participants were impressed with the healing experience they received through the program, and shared that they "want to give back." These three will take the Initial Trauma Healing Facilitator Training in the Fall.

Advanced Trauma Healing Facilitator Training

Two people who completed the Initial Equipping Facilitator Training last year have completed their requirements as Intern Facilitators to help lead two different courses. They will be taking the Advanced Facilitator certification training online in September along with people from around the country from Karin Esselstrom (World Impact) who trained them last year. We will now have nine certified Facilitators to help us lead the Trauma Healing courses.

Master Trauma Healing Training (Train the Trainer)

Christian and I are starting the steps to become **Trainers** of Trauma Healing Facilitators for the Trauma Healing Program. 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.

The Trauma Healing course we offer now is very adult-focused. To add to our train-the-trainer's knowledge, Christian and I are taking Facilitator training in late July for leading the Teen Trauma Healing course. 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.

If you are interested in adding the Trauma Healing program at your church or ministry, contact me at 303-956-7898. We can also train your members or employees to be Facilitators.

Prison Ministry

Denver Complex

The Denver Complex consists of two Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) facilities: 1) Denver Womens Correctional Facility (DWCF) and 2) Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center (DRDC).

The seminary-like program at **DWCF** has been there since 2012. We've had three graduations since starting. Since our graduation over a year ago, we added two new students and last year added three more. We just started the pre-cursor course "Fight the Good Fight of Faith" that meets in a different room at the same time as the TUMI seminary-like classes. We have 10 students attending Fight the Good Fight who desire to join the TUMI program when they are finished.

DRDC is a separate facility located on the north side of DWCF. Most of the inmates are there for a short time until they are transferred to a permanent Colorado state prison. However, there are approximately 125 inmates who live there permanently. Even before COVID, men from this group were trying to get the TUMI seminary-like program over there. We were starting talks with the facility leaders. Then COVID hit. Now we are back working with new facility leaders hoping to take TUMI in.

We have a great TUMI Mentor Team ready for DRDC. Our TUMI of Colorado Director Christian Paetsch and Cindy Alexander, one of my TUMI students at Crosswind Community Church, have completed CDOC's eight-hour Basic Volunteer Training and the required tour of the Denver Complex. We are waiting for a time and area to open up for teaching the TUMI classes.

FCI Englewood

We currently have eight students taking TUMI at FCI Englewood. Two TUMI students recently completed the 16 modules, and we gave them their final transcripts and diplomas. However, we have three students graduating in 2026, and they need to wait for the big graduation party. That will be an exciting celebration with five students graduating.

The Fight the Good Fight of Faith precursor course started June 19 at FCI Englewood. We have 12 students and look forward to adding new TUMI students after they complete this course.

Two of our TUMI students at FCI Englewood were released to their hometown communities. I was so blessed to find a great mentor who is a pastor for one. I couldn't find a mentor for the other student being released, but I was able to communicate with a church in his hometown who would let him attend their worship services. He's already attending this church, and the congregation has been very welcoming.

HELP!! Volunteers Needed

I need help with TUMI publications and email announcements, social media, and office assistance. Contact me at 303-956-7898 if you are interested.

TUMI of Colorado Board of Directors

Strategic Planning Meeting

On Saturday, March 29, we held our first Strategic Planning Meeting. The strategic planning meeting helped us focus on aligning our TUMI of Colorado ministry's unique gifts and resources that God has given us. Ephesians 5:15-16 says, *"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity"*

We started the meeting by asking the Lord for His discernment. We were blessed by how this four-hour meeting allowed us to grow closer as a ministry team, and we were able to achieve the following:

- Clearly identified the values of the organization in our Vision Statement and Mission Statement.
- Defined our Programs and Strategic Priorities for achieving success.
- Got everyone focused and pulling in the same direction and created a culture of strategic thinking.

Quarterly Board Meeting – New Officers

Mike Dicke's responsibilities with World Impact's International TUMI have grown, and he needed to step down. We praise the Lord for providing us with not just one but two very qualified candidates--John Kennedy and Greg Speer--who were willing to assume the role of President of the TUMI Board of Directors. At our May 17 quarterly Board meeting, Greg Speer was voted in as President. The other candidate, John Kennedy, will stay on as a Board member. Thank you Jesus!



Back row from left to right Board Vice President Deb Anderson, Detra Wildy, me, new President Greg Speer, Brett Westerfield, John Kennedy, Director Christian Paetsch. Front row, new Treasurer Kris Katzenmeyer (missing Chaplain Steve Farson, Pastor Ramon Navarro, Mylene Laguyo, and Grant Writer Jan Rodriguez)

Also, after two years, our Board Treasurer Mylene Laguyo has stepped down due to her very busy personal and work schedule. We praise the Lord for Mylene's hard work and commitment to setting up our Excel spreadsheets and to preparing our financial quarterly and yearly tax reports. These projects involved many hours of volunteer time. She also served on our Board Fundraising Team who organized our fundraising banquet and silent auction last year. All the decorations she did for the fundraiser turned the room into a beautiful celebration. Thank you Mylene for your outpouring of love to Jesus and the TUMI of Colorado ministry.

(Continued on page 6 – left column)

Correctional Ministries & Chaplains Association Summit

You can tell from the photo below that Christian and I were so excited to attend for our first time the Correctional Ministries and Chaplains Association (CMCA) Summit, in Orlando Thursday May 1 through Saturday, May 3. Our friend Brett Westerfield, who is also in prison ministry and serves on our Board, joined us.

Thursday events

At 2:00 PM, we joined The Empowerment Network (TEN) leaders Don and Cathy Allsman in a pre-Summit roundtable meeting at their hotel. During the roundtable, one of our prison ministry partners who attended, Quentin Valdez with the Cell Church Ministry, shared that he had been in contact with a Colorado Springs church that is interested in helping us take the TUMI Capstone Program into the LaVista Womens Correctional Facility in Pueblo. Quentin is setting up a meeting with the church and me to see how we can make that happen.

At 4:00 PM, we attended the Summit Networking Dinner. We met people from all over the world who serve Christ Jesus through prison ministry. We also saw friends we have partnered with over the years. It was a good start to a very inspiring weekend.



Christian, Brett & me at the networking dinner

Friday

On Friday at 8:30 AM, we arrived for the first day of the summit. We were blown away by all the great sessions they offered. It was hard to decide which ones to take.

For the Opening Plenary Session, the speaker was Alice Marie Johnson. Do you remember when Kim Kardashian advocated with President Trump during his first term to get a prisoner pardoned? Well, she's the one. Alice is a former Federal prisoner who was given a life sentence for a first-time, nonviolent drug case. Every day behind bars, Alice gave hope to those who had none. For example, she cared for female inmates in hospice care so they wouldn't die alone. She came alongside those with mental and physical handicaps, organizing the first-ever Special

(Continued on page 6 – left column)

TUMI of Colorado Board of Directors (continued)

We praise the Lord that our own Board member Kris Katzenmeyer agreed to take over the Treasurer role. Kris had many years of experience as an accountant with the City of Denver and has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. Thank you Jesus!

Correctional Ministries & Chaplains Association Summit (continued from page 5)

Olympics for incarcerated people. After almost 22 years in prison, Alice was granted clemency in 2018 and a full Presidential pardon by President Trump in 2020. Today, she is the Founder/CEO of Taking Action for Good who advocates for those trapped by injustices in the criminal justice system. There is so much more to Alice's story, You can look her up on the Internet or read her story in her book, *After Life: My Journey From Incarceration to Freedom*."

During lunch and dinner, Christian and I did a lot of networking. I took the following workshop sessions:

- **Morning session:** Fundraising: How to Tell Your Story. This session provided practical ideas on how to share our ministry story by creating a compelling marketing campaign appeal and social media plan. I got a lot of ideas. We will need volunteers to help us with this.
- **Afternoon session:** Trauma Healing for Men with a Sex Offence. Because I lead the Trauma Healing course at the men's Federal prison, I decided to take this session. Very helpful.

Saturday

During lunch and dinner, Christian and I continued to network and check out the prison ministry venues set up in the welcome area of the church. I took the following workshop sessions:

- **Morning session:** Effective Reentry Ministry for the Ordinary Congregation. Because we focus on reentry of prisoners at our Onesimus Workshops, I took this session. At the beginning of our session, the presenter had us go around the room, say our name, and share a little about our ministry.

(Continued on page 6 – right column)

Correctional Ministries & Chaplains Association Summit (continued from page 6 left side)

- **Morning session (continued):** At the end of the session, a lady excitedly ran over to me and introduced herself. When I first started working with the TUMI Capstone Program at DWCF, she was a Prison Fellowship employee in California that I worked with often via phone calls. We had never met. We were so glad to meet in person.
- **Afternoon session:** After Trauma Healing: How to Sustain Resilience in Trials. Because I lead our Trauma Healing courses on the outside and in prison, I took this course presented by my friends Don and Cathy Allsman. I got some good ideas to integrate into our Trauma Healing program. I also met the Chaplain for the Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility. I will be following up with him, because he wants to know more about the TUMI Capstone Program.

The Summit's Closing Session featured Tim Johnson (no relation to Alice), Senior Pastor of Orlando World Outreach Church. He is a former NFL player and also served as Chaplain of the New Orleans Saints. Tim's book *"Fatherless No More"* offers hope and healing through encountering the unshakable love of his Heavenly Father who has always been there.



Sitting with Don & Cathy Allsman at the Closing Session

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



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The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) of Colorado Donation Instructions

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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TUMI of Colorado Donation Instructions

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

Payment Method	Instructions
Check	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	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.