



The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado

Spring/Summer 2024

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.

I'll be 76 next month. People often ask me "Weren't you going to retire last year?" I was, except that at a TUMI staff meeting in Wichita in October 2022, the Lord spoke to me that "it's not time" and confirmed He wanted me to continue with the TUMI ministry. Along with that message from the Lord, He instilled in me incredible, renewed energy and excitement for what He was going to do through the TUMI ministry in the Denver Metro Area and throughout Colorado. Turning our TUMI ministry into a non-profit ministry—The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado—Christian Paetsch and I, encouraged by World Impact along with our strong Board of Directors, are seeing our TUMI ministry flourish! I can't retire, I don't want to miss all that the Lord has for using TUMI of Colorado to bring people to Him and to grow them into mature men and women of God serving Christ Jesus! ☺ A friend share this passage with me, and I have adopted it as my focus: *"O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, ... I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come."* Psalms 71:17-18 (NKJV)

Praise the Lord!! In December, we celebrated the graduation of three TUMI students at the women's prison **AND**



Mary Flin taking a "selfie" of Dr. Davis, Lorna Rasmussen, the TUMI of Colorado team, and some of the TUMI of Topeka team at the Urban Leadership Conference partners from Kansas, Colorado, and Missouri. We tried to provide a relaxing day of learning from each other and encouragement to stay the course and finish strong. It was obvious from all the smiles and compliments we received that we had accomplished our goal. We plan to make this an annual event. TUMI of Colorado was encouraged to hold the 2025 Urban Leadership Conference in Denver. Stay tuned! See **Urban Leadership Conference** on page 3.

two TUMI students at the men's prison. From the moment I heard the words "All stand" and the graduation processional music started playing, I was filled with the joy of a "mother" who had poured Jesus' love and nurturing into these students all these years. Now the fruit. See **Focus on TUMI Graduates** starting on page 2.

On Saturday, February 10, we held another, successful Onesimus Workshop at South Fellowship Church in Littleton. Over 40 people participated in the workshop, representing churches and ministries throughout the Denver-Metro area. Read about the workshop in **Onesimus Workshop Highlights** on page 2.

On Saturday, April 27, TUMI of Colorado co-hosted the Urban Leadership Conference with TUMI of Topeka's Director Mary Flin and her team at the First Church of the Nazarene in Topeka. Rev. Dr. Don Davis, founder of the TUMI Capstone Program, was our featured speaker. We invited TUMI Site Leaders, graduates, current students, and ministry partners from Kansas, Colorado, and Missouri. We tried to provide a relaxing day of learning from each other and encouragement to stay the course and finish strong. It was obvious from all the smiles and compliments we received that we had accomplished our goal. We plan to make this an annual event. TUMI of Colorado was encouraged to hold the 2025 Urban Leadership Conference in Denver. Stay tuned! See **Urban Leadership Conference** on page 3.

In June, we finished our third Trauma Healing course at Crosswind Hope & Restoration Center. Vulnerable people are being led safely and effectively through trauma healing. Pastor Ramon Navarro, Lead Pastor for Crosswind, is pleased with the positive responses he has received from those who took the Trauma Healing sessions. See **NEW Trauma Healing Program** on page 3.

Mike and Mary Dicke continue to introduce TUMI internationally. See Mike's **TUMI International** report on page 4.

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 28:18-28 (ESV)



The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado offers an ever-growing curriculum to resource the Church for the Great Commission. The Capstone Curriculum, a ministry of World Impact, is a comprehensive, seminary-like, leadership development curriculum (16 modules), 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 for ministering 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.

Student Focus on TUMI Graduates

I had the honor of being a TUMI Mentor for all five of our newest TUMI graduates throughout the years they attended classes. I have watched them mature into incredible Christian men and women who are serving Christ Jesus on the mission field He has planted them—inside or outside the prison.

At each graduation, Naomi Hartman, Prison Fellowship Ministry Manager for CO, WY, and Utah, welcomed the guests and thanked the warden and prison staff for partnering with us to bring in the TUMI Capstone Program. She also acknowledged our dedicated TUMI mentors.

Rev. Dr. Don Davis (founder of the TUMI Capstone Program and their professor throughout the program) gave an inspiring message via video for each graduation ceremony, and he surprised the graduates by calling out their name during his message.

Over their years as TUMI students, these men and women worked hard to complete the TUMI Capstone program, spending over 300 hours in the classroom and probably two to three times that many hours in studying, reading, writing papers, organizing presentations, and participating in ministry projects that invested their learning in the life of their church and of the people around them. During the completion of their degree, they took approximately 65 tests, memorized scores of Scriptures, answered innumerable questions in the classroom, and grappled with integrating theological truth into their day-to-day life and ministry.

Women's Prison Graduation 12/3/2023

This is the third TUMI graduation for the Denver Women's Correctional Facility (DWCF). The others were in 2017 and 2018. Because of the COVID shutdown of the prison for a year, this class took longer to graduate. The first two graduations were big events that included a buffet of the grads' favorite foods and of course the graduation cake. Since then, the budgets have tightened, and we only provide a graduation cake and beverages.

When the TUMI grads, who are still incarcerated at DWCF, heard that only cake and beverages would get served, they got together and collected over \$600.00 among themselves and obtained permission from Lt. Frances Blair, Faith & Citizens Programs Manager, to pay for a full meal (same menu) and cake like they had at their graduation. **WOW!!** 😊

(Continued on page 4 – left column)

Onesimus Workshop Highlights

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.

Onesimus, which means "useful", was a runaway slave who became Paul's helpful protégé while in prison. It is believed that, in Rome, Paul led Onesimus to faith as a believer in Jesus Christ. In the book of Philemon, we learn that Paul took Onesimus in and found him to be an asset to him in ministry. 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.

BIG kudos to the South Fellowship Church team—Pastor Dan Elliott, Ann Bote, and other South staff—for all your hard work partnering with Rich Esselstrom, Christian Paetsch, and me in planning and hosting a successful Onesimus Workshop. Also a big thank you to all our speakers--Rainbow and Lonnie Griego, Joshua and Mickey Clemons, and Chaplain Matt Berg.



Onesimus Workshop at South Fellowship Church

(Continued on page 4 – lower right column)

Urban Leadership Conference

The Urban Leadership Conference was an all-day event (8:00 AM to 8:00 PM) geared to encourage and inspire our TUMI Site Leaders, seminary students, graduates, ministry leaders, and other guests with innovative ways to "Start Right and Finish Strong" in serving Christ Jesus.

Dr. Don Davis spoke in the morning session on how important it is to be a part of a church community and to serve it well. In the evening session, he spoke on passing on the Great Commission and the power of apprenticeship in Leadership Development. Mary Flin, Director and Dean of TUMI of Topeka, introduced a new model of Neighborhood Chaplaincy to our communities and shared its potential impact for extending outreach alongside urban churches. We also had many great break-out sessions to choose from:

- Lorna: *Toward a Strategy for Ministry*
- Matt: *The Emotionally Healthy Leader: You cannot be a spiritually mature leader without also being emotionally healthy.*
- Christian: *Turning Weakness into Strength*
- Kris: *Ministry in the Midst of Difficult Struggle*
- Clark and Huston: *A Hopeful Model for Pastors and Neighborhood Chaplains*
- Nell and Daryl: *Start Right and Finish Strong as Students and Mentors*

About 100 people attended. From Denver, along with Christian and me, five others attended: three of my TUMI students, one TUMI mentor in training, a TUMI DWCF mentor, and an officer on our TUMI of Colorado Board of Directors. Everyone took care of their own travel expenses.

Nancy shared: I loved the conference and being around a bunch of brilliant people with a great vision as to how to do Kingdom work well. I especially liked Dr. Davis' talk about how important it is to clarify who we belong to and to whom and what we are accountable for. He emphasized belonging to a community and to represent it well. No one serving as a soldier of the Lord gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the recruiter! (see 2 Timothy 2:8) As good ambassadors of Jesus, we have to submit to the authority of the Lord first, but also be an apprentice under a seasoned biblical leader.

Brett shared: "I'm new to TUMI and feeling out what the Lord has planned for me within this Ministry. I'm involved in a couple of ministries at my church, and I am co-facilitating "Fight the Good Fight of Faith" with Chaplain Kris. She encouraged me to go to go to the TUMI conference, and it was a productive adventure. Dr. Don Davis' overview of the "Nature of the Contemporary Church and Areas of Needed Improvement" was for me enlightening. Lorna Rasmussen's session "Toward a Strategy for Ministry" revealed how my plans for the visions the Lord has placed on my heart need a lot more planning, structure, and thoughtful purpose applied. My favorite part was getting to know other members of the leadership team. It was truly a blessed time."

NEW Trauma Healing Program



In today's world, many people have experienced trauma in their life such as ethnic conflict, floods, car accidents, child abuse, domestic abuse, loss through a crime, death of a loved one, or other types of trauma. They have been wounded inside by these experiences.

TUMI of Colorado offers World Impact's Scripture-based Trauma Healing course to help people work through their trauma and loss in a way that is helping rather than harmful.

Trauma creates a barrier and keeps people from experiencing the life-transforming message of God's Word and love. Hearts are hardened by anger and bitterness, and the seed falls on hard ground and does not take root. In this small six-week group setting, Certified Trauma Healing group leaders bring together proven mental health resources and the wisdom of the Bible in a way that's accessible and begins to remove those roadblocks.

For example, at Crosswind Hope & Restoration Center, we are building up a Counseling Ministry that includes the Trauma Healing course. Vulnerable people are being led safely and effectively through trauma healing. If after taking the course, a person feels they need personal counseling, we will assign them to a counselor.

There are Trauma Healing groups throughout the Denver Metro area. If you would like to go through the Trauma Healing course or want to refer someone, you are welcome to join me in the next group at Crosswind Hope & Restoration Center, or I can refer you to a group meeting near you.

If you or your church are interested in learning about the Trauma Healing Facilitator Training program, please contact me at 303-956-7898.

HELP!! Volunteers Needed

Our TUMI of Colorado ministry is growing! We are badly in need of volunteers.

TUMI Capstone Program Volunteers. We will train you. You can take the TUMI Capstone Program while serving as a volunteer. We like having a mix of men and women TUMI Mentor volunteers at each prison.

- TUMI Site Leader and TUMI Mentors at Denver Reception & Diagnostic Center, a men's prison
- TUMI Site Leader and TUMI Mentors at LaVista Correctional Facility in Pueblo, a women's prison
- TUMI Site Leader and TUMI Mentors at churches in Castle Rock, Elizabeth, and Parker

Administrative Volunteers. Help me (Chaplain Kris) with TUMI publications and email announcements, social media, and office assistance.

If you would like to know more about volunteering with the TUMI of Colorado ministry, contact me at 303-956-7898.

Women's Prison Graduation (continued)

Thank you to our beloved TUMI Mentors—Greg Speer, Chris Adams, Laura Jones, and Nancy Alberts—who answered the call to serve Christ Jesus alongside me at DWCF.

For the graduation celebration, we had close to 70 guests consisting of former TUMI mentors, TUMI inmate students and graduates, TUMI released graduates, inmate friends of the graduates, leaders of churches and ministries in the prison, and various prison staff.



TUMI DWCF graduates Sandy, Belinda, and Jana

NOTE: Sandy was supposed to graduate in December 2022, but missed because she was very sick with COVID. She is wearing the colors that the 2022 graduates wore.

Belinda took the first Fight the Good Fight of Faith Bible study (precursor course for taking TUMI) offered at DWCF in 2017. After finishing that year, she transitioned into the TUMI Capstone program. Now that Belinda has graduated, she is giving back to the Lord by serving in the TUMI program as a Mentor. She is also making plans to become a counselor/therapist for adolescents through a state college correspondence program. Belinda worships in the Heritage Christian Center service.

Jana started the TUMI Capstone Program in May 2017. She is a recognized leader in the prison and serves on many boards. She has a heart for Jesus, and many of our new TUMI students were encouraged by her to start the program. She is currently working on two associate degrees through a state college correspondence program. Jana worships with the New Beginnings Lutheran Church and is on their inside Council.

Sandy started as a TUMI student in 2012 when I did. She always took the summer off, so it took her longer to graduate. In March 2016, Sandy completed training with International Fellowship of Chaplains to become a Certified Chaplain. She serves with the Kairos Prison Ministry at DWCF and is very loved and respected by the inmates.

(FCI Englewood continued on page 5 – left column)

TUMI International

In April, Mike, Mary, and grandson Jude traveled to the United Kingdom (UK) and Europe. Mike planned the trip to introduce the Church-Based Seminary (TUMI Capstone) Program to people who had invited them or were referred to them. While there, they were also blessed to enjoy many sites as tourists.

On April 15, they arrived in London. After a tour of the city in the pouring rain, they met with a missionary from their church in Wichita who ministers to a group in London. The next day they met with Mega Samuel and his wife Blessy—Tamil people from Tamil Nadu, India—who are ministering in Bristol, England. Mega and Blessy are starting Church-Based Seminary (TUMI) there.

On April 18, they took the train to Paris to meet with another Tamil pastor (Jay) and his wife (Christiana) whom they also met in Tamil Nadu, India last year. Mike taught the first lesson of Fight the Good Fight of Faith to a gathering of pastors.

On Sunday, April 20, they attended a tiny church in a 4th floor walkup apartment. Mike, Mary, and grandson Jude spoke at the service. After the service, Mike did a short television broadcast about TUMI. Later, he delivered the message at an evangelistic service where a revival program was being held. Mike shares "there will be a TUMI site in Paris as a result of our visit."

They left the next morning for Mont Beliard, France, where they met with another American missionary and his wife to talk about the Fight the Good Fight of Faith course and TUMI.

At the end of their successful TUMI International trip, they left for Amsterdam to meet up with Mary's sister.

If you or your church would like to sponsor the cost of TUMI curriculum for international TUMI students, please contact me at 303-956-7898.

Onesimus Workshop (continued)



Those who attended the Onesimus Workshop learned how difficult it is for released prisoners to succeed outside the prison. The workshop was packed with lots of great information about how imperative it is for Christian ex-offenders to have a place to worship, fellowship, and serve. We heard from our formerly incarcerated speakers how difficult it is for released prisoners to succeed outside the prison. We also learned that the church plays a key role in mentoring, encouraging, and incorporating ex-offenders into their congregation. Rich, Christian, Chaplain Berg, and I shared success stories of how some of our released TUMI graduates are serving the Lord on the outside. Amen!

Continued on page 5 – right column.

FCI Englewood Graduation 1/11/2024

I can't show you the graduates' photographs, but the shadow graphic correctly portrays how the graduates felt that night.



The sanctuary was full of guests coming to celebrate the TUMI graduation, including all the seats in the inmate section. Over the years, our TUMI graduates had shared the Lord with many of these men through one-on-one conversations, Bible studies in their unit, leadership in their churches, and other ways. So, it was a particular blessing to see that area full.

I want to thank Chaplain Matt Berg, Lead Chaplain at FCI-Englewood for his constant support and advocacy for our TUMI Capstone Program. I also want to thank our beloved TUMI Mentors—Chaplain Steve Farson and Melanie West—who answered the call to serve Christ Jesus alongside me at FCI Englewood.

David started with the first TUMI class in August 2015. After taking four modules, he was transferred to another prison in California where they did not offer TUMI. In 2018, he was transferred back to FCI Englewood and was able to resume his TUMI courses. He is currently serving on the TUMI Mentor team and will train to take over leading the Fight the Good Fight of Faith course (precursor course for taking TUMI),

Larry took the Fight the Good Fight of Faith course in 2018, and then transitioned into the TUMI Capstone program. While taking TUMI courses, Larry was also taking correspondence Theology courses in Christian Counseling. Larry was released soon after his graduation day and is doing great! Two years before being released, I received a referral to a wonderful touch-base mentor for Larry who lives in the town he transferred. They started writing, then emailing. Chaplain Berg also scheduled monitored phone calls. Larry and his mentor have become good friends, and Larry has been welcomed into his mentor's church.

Onesimus Workshop attendee feedback

Praise the Lord! So much fruit came out of this workshop! Six churches/ministries indicated they are interested in hosting an Onesimus workshop. Four churches/prison ministries are interested in the Trauma Healing training.

South Fellowship members who attended the workshop indicated they would like to be involved in identifying a vision for prison ministry at their church. One attendee started writing to a prisoner whose parent attends his church. One attendee is considering becoming a TUMI Mentor and is taking the precursor course for his training.

Following are some of the Onesimus Workshop attendees' evaluation comments.

Kevin shared: *"Opened my eyes to some of what a former inmate might be experiencing and how to be sensitive to that."*

Rebecca shared: *"...hard topic but presented with compassion and love. Made me realize more that 'they' (released prisoners attending workshop) look and act like...me. We all fall short!"*

Gwen shared: That we did well *"informing us about something most of us have no idea about when prisoners reenter society."*

Kristen shared: She liked the videos, testimonies, table discussions, and the people she met. She also enjoyed learning more about our TUMI of Colorado programs

Marie shared: *<The workshop> "dispelled some misconceptions and helped understand the obstacles for released prisoners and how best to help them reintegrate."*

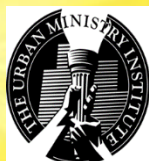
Rick shared: He liked how we described the prison culture.

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

Prayer Requests

- Prayer to raise my needed financial support for 2024.
- Prayer for a fun and exciting TUMI of Colorado celebration on Saturday, August 17, at Fellowship Community Church in Centennial. Pray that many will join us in celebrating. Invitations/announcements go out soon. Let me know if you have not received one by July 12.
- Prayer over grant approval to start three new TUMI 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 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

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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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.

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.