



# TUMI of Colorado

## Spring/Summer 2023

*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.*

Approximately 11 years ago, TUMI Field Representative Mike and Mary Dicke moved to Denver to start The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) Capstone Program. That first TUMI class consisted of one person. Over the years, the TUMI Denver program has had over a hundred students spread out over five different locations locally and in two prisons.

I was a student in Mike's second TUMI class that started in a downtown Denver home in September 2013. AND, out of this TUMI class, the Lord called me into serving Him full time with Mike in the TUMI Denver Ministry. Now we are moving into another stage of our ministry to share more of the many programs offered by World Impact and to expand our ministry throughout Colorado. See [Introducing TUMI of Colorado](#) on page 2.

On Saturday, October 21, we are having a **NEW** Onesimus Workshop at Crosswind Hope and Restoration Center in Aurora. See [New Onesimus Workshop](#) for more information on page 2. Through the Onesimus Workshop initiative, we help empower prisoners upon their release by connecting them with:

- Welcoming and friendly churches where they can grow to serve and lead.
- Partnering organizations that provide housing and job training/placement.
- Existing TUMI class locations to continue their development.
- Church planting movements.



**In December, we celebrated our second TUMI graduation with five students from classes on the outside** (not in prison) at Crosswind Hope and Restoration Center in Aurora. These students attended classes at TUMI locations throughout the Denver Metropolitan area. All the grads are involved in leadership within their church or are involved with outside Christian ministry.

These TUMI grads worked hard to complete the TUMI Capstone program. Most have families and full-time jobs, which made taking TUMI more of a challenge. But they persevered spending over 300 hours in the classroom and probably two to three times that many hours in studying, reading, preparing 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. See [Student Focus on Graduates 2023](#) starting on page 3 to read the graduates' bios. You can also enjoy watching the video of the December TUMI graduation on YouTube. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcsxvRLOr7Y>.

*left to right graduates Kris, Detra, Bill, Vinny, & Sandy*

Mike and Mary Dicke continue to introduce TUMI internationally. See [TUMI International](#) on page 3 for Mike's update on how the Lord makes this all happen.

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)

## TUMI Denver



The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) Capstone Program, a ministry of World Impact, is a seminary-level biblical curriculum which is being used effectively to equip ministry leaders who might not otherwise have access to a biblical education. The 16 modules provide the most essential knowledge and skills for effective ministry and church leadership, making it an excellent tool to prepare students to be ministers of the gospel of Christ.

***We are now taking applications for the next module at Denver Metro locations.***  
*Contact me at 303-956-7898 for locations, days, and times.*

### Introducing TUMI of Colorado

In 2013, God called me to serve Him through various The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) programs and ministry throughout the Denver Metropolitan area. World Impact's mission is to empower urban leaders and partner with local churches and ministries to reach their cities with the gospel of Christ Jesus. In November 2022, the TUMI Denver team—Mike, Christian Paetsch, and I—embarked on a new journey with the TUMI ministry. After much prayer, discussion, and support from World Impact, we have determined it is strategic for us to not only grow TUMI programs in Denver but to also expand throughout Colorado by becoming our own 501(c) (3) nonprofit. To keep in pace with the great vision God has given us, we have broadened the scope of our ministry by naming our nonprofit **The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) of Colorado**.

Daren Busenitz, World Impact's Senior Vice President of Ministry Mobilization is leading us through the transition process. This is all new for the TUMI Denver Team (exciting and a little scary at the same time), but the Lord is clearly directing our steps through Daren and others who have walked this path in becoming a nonprofit. In November, we applied with the State of Colorado to become a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit entity, and we were approved in December.

We have opened a business bank account and also have a new mailing address to receive our business mail at 16350 East Arapahoe Road, Suite 108-147, Foxfield, CO 80016.

We have put together a TUMI of Colorado Vision Statement and Mission Statement. In addition, we have put together an excellent Board of Directors. Our initial Board meeting was on Saturday, June 17.

All of Mike Dicke's and my ministry responsibilities will remain the same. Mike will continue with the TUMI International ministry starting TUMI programs throughout the world and being responsible for TUMI curriculum translations. I will continue to start and lead TUMI programs in the prisons and at outside locations, mentor released prisoners and students from outside locations, and plan and conduct Onesimus Workshops at local churches and ministry locations.

The biggest change is that Christian Paetsch (TUMI graduate 2019) has joined our team, and will lead as our Director. He will be taking over some of the duties that Mike performed before going solely TUMI International. For three years, Christian has been the TUMI Site Leader at Fellowship Community Church in Centennial, taking over Mike's TUMI classes at his church location.

**Watch for my special newsletter this summer with details about our new TUMI of Colorado nonprofit.**

### NEW Onesimus Workshop

World Impact's Prison Ministry Program trains churches and ministries to do effective ministry in and through the local church. We do this in two ways:

- **Support on the inside.** We take church-based seminary (TUMI) inside the prisons.
- **Support on the outside.** Onesimus Workshops train churches and ministries to equip prisoners, welcome former prisoners into the life of the church, and empower them to do effective ministry.

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 returned citizens. With training, men and women who have experienced incarceration can be powerful agents to advance God's Kingdom in and through the local church.

**- Save the Date -**  
**Onesimus Workshop**  
**9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**  
**Saturday, October 21**



Crosswind Hope & Restoration Center  
12455 East Mississippi Avenue  
Aurora, CO 80012  
Contact Kris at 303-956-7898 (leave message)

Rev. Rich Esselstrom, World Impact's Prison Ministry Director, will be facilitating the workshop with me. Rich has worked with World Impact in prison ministry—inside and outside—since 1986. He has been a great mentor to me and helped me find mentors for some of our released TUMI students.

We will also hear from the chaplain at the men's prison on how much TUMI has impacted the lives of those inmates he works with. And some of our released TUMI grads and students will be there to share what TUMI has meant to them inside and outside the prison.

### Prayer requests

- Prayer to raise my needed financial support for 2023.
- Prayer over successful start of new TUMI locations (5).
- Prayer for successful new Onesimus Workshops (2) and working with Denver-area churches and ministries interested in ministry to inmates and/or befriending and welcoming Christian ex-offenders into the church.

## Student Focus on Graduates 2023

The graduates for December 2023 came from TUMI classes held at various locations in the Denver Metropolitan area:

- Open Door Ministries, Denver,
- Fellowship Community Church (FCC), Centennial
- Denver Womens Correctional Institute (DWCF)
- Federal Correctional Institute (FCI), Englewood
- Grace of the Lord Church, Aurora
- Crosswind Hope and Restoration Center, Aurora.

Some attended classes at more than one location in order to take the classes they needed to finish the 16 modules (semesters). Some could not participate in live class sessions. They watched Dr. Davis's DVD teachings from home and were mentored over the phone by TUMI mentors.

I had the honor of being the TUMI Mentor for all five graduates at one time or another.



### William (Bill) Downer

Bill grew up in Waterford Michigan and graduated from Waterford Township High School. The year 2010 was, for Bill, a big year for making important life decisions. He struggled with alcohol for many years and made the decision to live in a sober environment at the Lighthouse residence run by the Open Door Ministry. On October 10, he made the decision to go sober and then, on November 15, accepted Jesus as his personal Savior. He later became Director of the Lighthouse (where he once lived).

In 2014, a staff member at the Open Door Ministry encouraged Bill to attend the TUMI Capstone classes. After a year, he was asked to be an Elder in the Open Door Fellowship Church. Currently, Bill is Director of Providence House, a two-year transitional house for men and women coming out of drug and alcohol addiction.

Bill attended TUMI classes at our Open Door Ministry and Grace of the Lord Church locations. He says that TUMI has given him the confidence, spirit, and heart to share his experience, strength, and hope with others who are broken just like he was.

*Continued on page 3, right column.*

## TUMI International

A new TUMI school was started in Assam, India with 40 students. That's amazing ongoing fruit from their previous trips to that area.

In January, Mike and Mary traveled to Tamil Nadu, India to help Jacob Christy get the Church Based Ministry (TUMI and Fight the Good Fight of Faith) started. He has 180 students wanting to take Fight the Good Fight, so they sent him money to buy a printer and binder for making workbooks for those students and future TUMI students. This is another amazing response to a simple presentation of the curriculum.

While in Tamil Nadu, Mike and Mary met a young couple and their family. They are from France, but were in India for a time to help with their father's church. They speak Tamil and French and have a church near Paris. They invited Mike and Mary to come to Paris in January 2024 to help get a church-based seminary started in French.

Mike shares that "Paris is a lot closer than India and a new country to add to the many we have been privileged to visit and help get TUMI started. Praise God....just another amazing invitation that God puts in our way which we cannot ignore. Thank you all for your prayers."

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.

## Student Focus on Graduates 2023 (continued)

### Kris Katzenmeyer

Kris accepted Jesus into his life in April 1987 and was baptized. He is single and has five siblings whom he hopes to one day reestablish good relationships. After being discharged from the Air Force in 2001, he attended college and obtained a Bachelor of Science and then an MBA.

Early in his Christian walk, Kris was deceived by Satan and made a series of bad life choices that ultimately led to his arrest and incarceration at FCI in Englewood. In April 2016, Kris started the TUMI Capstone classes at FCI to strengthen the positive Christian relationships he had started there. He completed 11 modules (semesters) at FCI before his release and then completed his remaining 5 modules at Denver-area locations outside of prison. Currently, Kris is employed at Factory Motor Parts in a support position.

Kris attended TUMI classes at the Federal prison, Grace of the Lord Church, and Crosswind Hope and Restoration Center. And, currently, he serves with me as a TUMI Mentor at Crosswind Church.

Today, Kris walks closely with Jesus, listening and talking with Him daily. He realizes through all of his experiences that "we know that for those who love God all things work together for good." Romans 8:28

*Continued on top of page 4, left column.*

## ***Student Focus on Graduates 2023 (continued)***

### **Sandra (Sandy) Miller**

**NOTE:** Sandy was not able to attend the graduation ceremony, because she was very sick with COVID. Sandy started as a TUMI student when I did and also volunteered with me as a Chaplain with the Kairos Prison Ministry at the women's prison. Sandy is very loved and respected by the inmates. When my TUMI students who are graduating at the women's prison in late 2023 heard Sandy missed her graduation ceremony, they were emphatic that they she walk with them at their ceremony. She was touched and agreed.

Sandy has loved the Lord since a child and praises Him for this incredible gift of faith from that time until now. Sandy and her husband Don have been married 54 years and have two sons and six grandchildren.

Sandy shares that the Lord has blessed her with an abundance of people and opportunities to come into a deeper walk with Him. One was opening the door to Kairos Prison Ministry 22 years ago. While in Kairos, Sandy met Chaplain Kris. In 2013, together—in their 60s—they started as new TUMI students. Sandy almost quit TUMI that first day finding out there were memory verses. However, within a few weeks of starting, she discovered a method that helped her memorize the verses.

Sandy shares TUMI is a "powerful program." Taking TUMI classes has deepened her already strong relationship with the Lord. The theological research and study has opened her heart and challenged her. Researching for and completing the required exegetical papers (sermons) has shown her that the Word of God is more profound than just being words or ideas—it's deeper knowledge of His redeeming love. Completing the required Ministry Projects has caused her to step out of her comfort zone.

In March 2016, Sandy completed training with International Fellowship of Chaplains to become a Certified Chaplain.

### **Vincent (Vinny) Morsicato**

Vinny was born in Buffalo, New York in 1960. He was baptized Catholic. His parents divorced, and in 1969, his mother moved the family to Denver. He ditched his first day of school going into 1<sup>st</sup> grade and hated school through high school. By age 10, he was into hard drugs and pornography. He became a popular drug dealer from his teens to 30s.

*Continued at top of page 4, right column.*

## ***Student Focus on Graduates 2023 (continued)***

### **Vincent (Vinny) Morsicato (continued)**

At age 11, Vincent began working summers with his uncle building concrete foundations. His senior year, he had less scholastic credits than any freshman, but he was a foreman making \$18.00 an hour—in 1978! Vincent completed his G.E.D. In early spring, his best friend died in his arms after getting rear-ended in a horrific car accident. He began a true search for God, studying most religions, and finally settling on Christianity.

At the birth of his daughter in 1989, "higher than a kite" and staring at the future in his hands, Vincent knew he had to change. In 1990, he gave full management of his life over to Jesus.

Vincent started enjoying being a student, earned several certifications, and became an expert/inspector on soils, concrete, and structural foundations. In 2016, he started the TUMI Capstone program at Fellowship Community Church in Centennial and shares that he would take it all over again. After all, he knows a good foundation when he sees one—JESUS!

### **Detra Tennyson**

Detra accepted Christ at age 10 and was baptized at age 12. She has eight children, one honorary grandchild, and one dog.

Detra attended Metropolitan State University before being incarcerated at DWCF. In October 2016, she began the TUMI Capstone Program offered at DWCF. At the same time Detra was taking TUMI courses, she also completed the Cosmetology program and passed her boards. Following that, she completed the Culinary program followed by obtaining a Paralegal certificate. This is admirable, as all of these additional programs are also rigorous education programs. Detra was released from prison in 2021, She started Colorado Christian University and is currently in her junior year. She is employed as a Legal Assistant for a Mass Tort Law firm in Denver.

TUMI came into Detra's life at a point when she didn't believe in herself and was searching for a deepness with God that normal Bible study could not provide. She was tired of the surface relationship she had with God and knew there had to be more. TUMI taught her how to properly study the Bible which led to a deep relationship with God that her soul was searching for. With every module came growth, confidence, and more understanding of God's character and His word. Detra shares that TUMI not only changed her life but it also saved her life.

**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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WILL YOU PARTNER WITH  
**Kris Briggs?**

Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the ministry of Kris Briggs.

This is a: ☐ One-time gift

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to "The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado,"  
and designate "Support for Chaplain Kris Briggs" on the memo.*

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you for partnering with The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado (TUMI of Colorado). I will no longer be receiving my support salary through World Impact. Instead, all my support salary will be paid by the new "The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado" a 501 (c) (3) entity.

The TUMI of Colorado team is in the process of developing our new website. However, at this time, we do not have a way for our supporters to donate online. I am sorry for any inconvenience this causes you, but for now, I can only receive support in check form through the mail.

1. Please make your check payable to **The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado**, and designate **Support for Chaplain Kris Briggs** on the memo.
2. Mail your check to **The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado**, 16350 East Arapahoe Road, Suite 108-147, Foxfield, CO 80016.

If you have questions, contact me by email at [denvertumi.kris@gmail.com](mailto:denvertumi.kris@gmail.com) or phone at 303-956-7898.

Thank you and God bless you,

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