

The Urban Ministry Institute of Colorado



Fall/Winter 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.

In this issue of The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) of Colorado newsletter, you will see that we are **growing in all aspects of our ministry**. I am deeply thankful and humbled to be serving Christ Jesus through the TUMI of Colorado ministry. This ministry honors Jesus's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to "Go and make disciples." We are a turn-key solution for training up Disciples of Christ Jesus. We partner with churches and ministries by offering core programs that plug men and women into serving the Lord in churches, ministries, inside and outside of prisons, in their own neighborhoods, and in international mission.

On Saturday, August 17, we held our first fundraiser "Turning Weakness into Strength" and, at the same time, celebrated 14 years of TUMI ministry in the Denver Metro area. We want to thank our Board's Event Committee—Christian Paetsch, Deb Anderson, Mylene Laguyo, and Jan Rodriguez—for the many hours they spent planning, decorating, and running the event. See **TUMI of Colorado Fundraiser - Celebrating 14 Years in Ministry** on page 2

Growing our Trauma Healing Program. In August (8/15-17) and in September (9/5-7), we hosted two Trauma Healing Facilitator training sessions at Crosswind Hope & Restoration Center in Aurora: 1) Basic training for new facilitators and 2) Advanced training for Intern Facilitators to complete their certification. See **Trauma Healing Program** on page 2.

Growing our Prison Ministry. 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 is providing volunteers to work with the Mentor Team. In November, we also started a Trauma Healing program in the Federal mens prison. Another part of our ministry is finding mentors for our released incarcerated students. See **Prison Ministry** on page 3.



World Impact staff in Wichita praying over their TUMI of Colorado visitors visit World Impact and TUMI Topeka in Kansas. Read **Catching the Vision** on page 2.

Mike Dicke continues to introduce the Church-Based Seminary program internationally. See Mike's **TUMI International** report on page 2.

Your Servant-in Christ,

Chaplain Kris Briggs

Growing our volunteer team and staff. For over a year, I have been sharing how badly we need volunteers to mentor the TUMI Capstone Program at three new prison locations and at three new church locations. I also included that information as a prayer request. I want to thank you for your prayers, because God is answering in a beautiful way. Praise the Lord, we have four new volunteers training to be Mentors. See **"Inside the Prison"** on page 3.

An added blessing has been the Lord gifting us with Cindy Alexander (seated, third from left) who is volunteering (for now) as our Education Administrator. I wanted Cindy to have a solid vision of what we would like our TUMI of Colorado ministry to look like, so I took her to

*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.

TUMI of Colorado Fundraiser - Celebrating 14 Years in Ministry

Mike and Mary Dicke brought World Impact's TUMI Capstone Program (also called Church-Based Seminary Program) to Denver 14 years ago and started with just one student. Over the years, we have expanded staff, class locations, and World Impact programs offered. Since becoming a non-profit ministry in November 2022, TUMI of Colorado has flourished by partnering with churches, prisons, and ministries to equip individuals as disciples for Christ-centered ministry.

On Saturday, August 17, many guests attended our "Turning Weakness into Strength" fundraising event at Fellowship Community Church in Centennial.

Big thanks go to Fellowship Community Church for your longtime support of TUMI of Colorado programming!

We praise the Lord for the beautiful event our Board of Director's Event Committee—Christian Paetsch, Deb Anderson, Mylene Laguyo, and Jan Rodriguez—put together. They lovingly gave many hours of their time in preparing decorations, helping prepare the foods, coordinating the donations to auction, and so much more. Board members and volunteers also helped us set up and break down the rooms afterward.

When I first entered the event room before the guests arrived, I was so impressed with how beautifully decorated the room was and the wonderful gifts displayed for our silent auction.



Room setup before guests arrive

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TUMI International

Mike is going soon on another trip to visit four Church-Based Seminary Sites in a country where there has been serious persecution and arrests in some areas. Joining him will be one of our TUMI graduates. At each location, the team will conduct a "Winning the World Conference."

Please pray for Mike and the TUMI International Team's protection as well as the people they visit

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.

Trauma Healing Program



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. This year we offered both the **Basic** and **Advanced** Trauma Healing Facilitator courses. Praise the Lord, we are building up a strong team to lead the course.

Once again, we were blessed with having World Impact's Trauma Healing staff Karin Esselstrom and Amber Alcoser train us for both the Basic and Advanced courses.

Basic Training

Ten men and women from different churches and ministries in the Denver Metro area attended the Trauma Healing Facilitator Basic training on Thursday, August 15-17. To begin their training, the participants completed the same Trauma Healing sessions that they will offer to those whom they minister. The last part of training was to certify as Apprentice Facilitators. They need to help facilitate two Trauma Healing courses before they can take the Advanced Facilitator training to become fully certified.



Trauma Healing Basic Facilitator class

Advanced Training

Nine Apprentice Facilitators from Crosswind church and other churches and ministries in other states took the Advanced training to be fully certified as Trauma Healing Facilitators.

The next step, which is optional, is to train to become trainers who train Facilitators. Christian and I plan to take that training in 2025.



Trauma Healing Advanced Facilitator class

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Prison Ministry

Inside the prison

TUMI of Colorado received approval from the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) to take the TUMI Capstone Program into the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center, a mens prison. Capt. Dan Davis is mentoring us through the process. We have at least three volunteers who have applied with CDOC to serve on the Mentor Team. Once they are approved, they will need to take CDOC's 8-hour Basic Volunteer Training and do a visitation in the facility. We anticipate that we'll be able to start in February.

In November, we started offering Trauma Healing's "Healing the Wounded Heart" course developed exclusively for incarcerated persons. Currently, we are meeting in the Federal mens prison where we have the TUMI Capstone seminary program. Nine inmates are participating in the course. Two of our TUMI graduates are also going through the course, so that they can learn the material and be available to anyone who might need someone to talk to while they process their trauma issues.

Outside the prison

Mentoring is a very important part of our prison ministry once a TUMI inmate student/graduate is released to a community. Many do not have any family or friends in the town where they are released, and that adds to an already stressful situation. As soon as we have a date for their release—often 6 months to a year out—our prison Mentor Team starts the process of searching for a touch-base mentor in the city they are being released. For those being released to another state, I immediately send out an email to my large distribution of people in prison ministry across the nation and ask them if they could refer me to someone in the city/state where my student/graduate is being released. As referrals start coming, we follow up to find a good mentor match.

Sometimes, we cannot find a mentor for someone being released to another state, and that is sad. And, we are always in need of mentors here in the Denver Metro area.

Dan (not his real name) who is one of our graduates and served many years on our Mentor Team at the mens prison was released mid-September to another state. One of our Mentor team members was able to find a great mentor for him through someone who goes to his church. Dan's mentor, Brian, is a retired school principal and is an enthusiastic, committed, spirit-filled disciple of Christ. He is a great advocate for Dan, and has been emailing updates to us.

First email from mentor Brian

"Thank you for the blessing I have been working with Dan on a limited basis. He can only call from a phone in his unit. I can call the halfway house and leave a message, but you have to choose a unit and hope someone answers. He is doing well.

Two Saturdays ago, he had a four-hour pass, and I was able to take him shopping and out to eat.

He has a job working for a medical supply company and has 1/2 day off on Fridays. He left me a message today that he has two cook interviews coming up this week. We are praying for one of those jobs as he is currently making only \$12 an hour. He said 95% of the workers there are from the halfway house.

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Catching the Vision!!

Cindy Alexander came on board in July as our Education Administrator to help Christian and me in coordinating academic and administrative activities. She is also helping us recruit volunteers. We are blessed by her many gifts and talents that she is using to improve running the ministry.

TUMI of Colorado is an affordable, Christian-based educational program. We stay tied with World Impact by maintaining several satellites. At this time, there is no "brick and mortar" (physical building) and the associated costs of running it. We also have minimal staff and a minimal operating budget. Going forward, we are praying that the Lord will provide an office or building and needed volunteers and staff. ☺ Also see [Prayer Requests](#) on page 3.

I wanted Cindy to have a solid vision of what we would like our TUMI of Colorado ministry to look like. I knew that visiting the World Impact headquarters in Wichita and visiting the TUMI Topeka ministry lead by Mary Flin would do just that. In early October, Cindy, her husband Mike, Otis McKay (TUMI student) drove to Wichita, Kansas. We visited the World Impact headquarters, had lunch with Rev. Dr. Don Davis (founder of The Urban Ministry Capstone Program) and many of the staff. Then we traveled to Topeka, Kansas to visit the Seminary of Urban Leadership (SOUL) facility—home of TUMI Topeka—and meet with their Director and Dean Mary Flin. The next day, we got to sit in on TUMI Topeka's Saturday morning seminary class.

Big thanks goes to Daren Busenitz, Sr. Vice President of Mobilization, and Bobbi Jolly who coordinated all the plans for our lunch with the World Impact staff (and anyone else involved). Also see <https://www.worldimpact.org>.

Also, thank you Chaplain Mary Flin, Director and Dean, of SOUL in Topeka for your gift of hospitality. You are always such a great inspiration to us on the direction we want our programs to grow.

Here is Cindy's account of the trip:

"...what did you think you would see? A reed swayed by the wind?" Matthew 11:7 "

Jesus said this in talking about people's expectation in John the Baptist, a man full of the Spirit of God and preparing the way for the Lord Jesus.

This is what I was thinking when Chaplain Kris first suggested she wanted me to go with her to Kansas to visit the World Impact Ministry and TUMI Topeka ministry. I was not overly interested in going, but I was curious about why she was so excited. I asked my husband Michael and my brother Otis to go with us.

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Prayer Requests

- Prayer to raise my needed financial support for 2025.
- 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.
- Prayer for an office site and financial covering similar to what we had a few years ago at Open Door Ministries, We had an office room, conference room with bookshelves full of TUMI books, and a classroom.

Prison Ministry (continued)

He has a great attitude and I am cleared to drive him places. He can't get out on Sunday to come to church until he completes a program. Blessings to you and thank you for your dedication to the incarcerated people."

Last email from mentor Brian

"VICTORY!!! They finally said Dan could go to church!! I have been approved as a Community Supervisor so that I can pick him up for church this Sunday!! I was approved as a transporter several weeks ago so we have been doing shopping and a meal out on Saturdays. "

We currently need mentors for inmates released to the Denver Metro area and Pueblo. If you would like to know more about volunteering as a mentor to a released prisoner, contact me at 303-956-7898.

TUMI of Colorado Fundraiser (continued)

Many businesses and private supporters contributed special items for our silent auction. The donations were presented in theme baskets that included golf certificates at several golf courses, gift certificate to attend a theatre event, a week's stay at a resort, designer shoes, wines, and more.

We promised heavy hors d'oeuvres, but our caterer—who donated the food—had outdone herself.



Guests enjoying the great food and photo area



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Trauma Healing Program (continued)

Big thanks go to my home church Crosswind Hope and Restoration Center in Aurora for hosting both the Basic and Advanced Trauma Healing Facilitator courses.

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

Catching the Vision!! (continued)

Visiting World Impact in Wichita was eye opening as we met the inspiring staff who share a vision of global Christian ministry through discipleship, leadership training, church planting, and trauma healing. We enjoyed lunch with the staff and a tour of the facility. We also enjoyed viewing the Bible-based artwork and strategic boards displayed throughout the facility that tracked the work of building Christian leadership all over the world.

Meeting Rev. Dr. Don Davis, founder of The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) Capstone Program, was particularly impactful, as he spent valuable time sharing World Impact's vision, mission, and future plans in a way we could understand. Hearing the history of World Impact left us knowing we were joining something so much bigger than ourselves or Colorado. Before we departed, the staff bathed us in heartfelt prayers (see photo on page 1), letting us know that we were not alone, that the work was doable, and that God's kingdom was worth anything we would take on.

While visiting World Impact gave us the bigger vision, visiting TUMI Topeka showed us the day-to-day vision of the ministry. Their educational facility is located in an older home converted to classrooms and a library. Chaplain Mary Flin shared with us her real-time plans and many stories about how God has transformed ordinary people for His use.

We also visited Mary's Saturday morning seminary class and met humble, honest, and hardworking stewards of the Lord. Meeting the students and experiencing the classroom session opened our hearts to what could be. It became clear to me about how the ministries work together.

"...what did you think you would see? A reed swayed by the wind?" Matthew 11:7

As we live in these days, TUMI of Colorado is preparing Disciples to share the gospel of Christ Jesus in a powerful way. What a privilege to be joining this mighty work that is not what people expect!

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

TUMI of Colorado Fundraiser (continued)

As guests entered the event room, they were blessed by the beautiful Christian background music provided by worship band members from Fellowship Christian Church.

After opening with prayer, we sang out in celebration, giving all glory, honor, and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ for 14 years of Him using TUMI of Colorado to build up disciples of Christ Jesus in the Denver Metro Area and throughout Colorado.

Christian Paetsch gave an inspiring message based on our theme “*Turning Weakness Into Strength.*”



2019 graduate Christian Paetsch and Director TUMI of Colorado

Many guests shared with me that it was a highlight of the evening to hear the testimonies of current students Julian Bak and Katherine Griffin and graduate Greg Speer. Each shared how their walk with Christ Jesus deepened and how they have plugged into serving Him as disciples.



2019 graduate Greg Speer giving testimony

Mike Dicke shared some of the amazing things God has done through the TUMI International (TI) taking the Church-Based Seminary program into other countries. He also shared the TI team's willingness to follow Him wherever He wants them to go.

Throughout the evening, during a break, I could see guests going back to the table to see if they had the highest bid on their favorite donation item. Finally, the time arrived! As Jan Rodriguez, member of the Board's Event Committee, read off the winners' names, you could hear laughter and congratulations throughout the room.

Praise the Lord!!

We were blessed to raise over \$4,000 to support TUMI of Colorado's mission of affordable, Christ-centered educational programs throughout our Colorado communities—including poverty individuals, those in prison, and former prisoners. These contributions will help us provide vital ministry programs to those in need.

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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Please consider me in your end-of-year 2024 donations.

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.