



TUMI of Colorado

Fall/Winter 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.

Happy Thanksgiving!! I have much to be thankful for. It's been a year since the TUMI Denver team—Mike Dicke, Christian Paetsch, and I—embarked on a new journey with the TUMI ministry. As I shared in our last newsletter, after much prayer, discussion, and support from World Impact, we 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. We broadened the scope of our ministry by naming our nonprofit **The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) of Colorado**.

TUMI of Colorado continues to offer the same World Impact programming. We've **also added World Impact's newer Trauma Healing program**. In September, TUMI of Colorado hosted the Trauma Healing facilitator training course for the first time at Crosswind Hope and Restoration Center in Aurora. Karin Esselstrom (World Impact) and Amber Alcoser (Aglow International) were our trainers. For more information, see **New Trauma Healing Program** on page 2. Also see our TUMI of Colorado website at <https://www.coloradotumi.org/>



We are so blessed by the TUMI of Colorado Board of Directors the Lord has put together. These men and women are committed to cheering us on while holding us accountable in our ministry. *Photo from left to right: Director Christian Paetsch, Detra Wimber, Laura Jones, Deb Anderson, Jan Rodrigues, and me. On Zoom screen above: Chaplain Steve Farson, Pastor Ramon Navarro, and Rev. Mike Dicke. Missing Jamie and Terri Lay and Kris Katzenmeyer.*

Impact's Prison Ministry Director, facilitated the workshop. Some of our released TUMI grads and students shared what TUMI has meant to them inside and outside the prison. See **Onesimus Workshop Highlights** on page 2.

People see a difference in our TUMI released prisoners. In August, I received this message from one of my TUMI graduate's treatment counselors sharing how much TUMI has impacted the life of her client a former inmate. *"TUMI has been such a great resource for one of my clients! It has given him a sense of belonging, of purpose, and even a social outlet, and a new set of peers to connect with. My client has been able to see his value and his worth as he has been learning to give to others, and not focus so much on himself. His self-esteem and confidence has increased. He sets goals and achieves them. He continues to grow and to learn. I have been so grateful for TUMI, as I have witnessed my client excelling in his personal growth and development and great sense of inclusion within his new community!"* I invited the counselor to speak at the Onesimus Workshop, and she did!

Our next Onesimus Workshop is Saturday, February 10, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It is being hosted by Pastor Dan Elliott at South Fellowship Church in Littleton. This will be the **first time on the West side of Denver Metro**. If you missed the Onesimus Workshops held in the past, I encourage you to attend the workshop in Littleton. Also bring your pastor or one of the leaders in your church. Watch for my email in early January with the Onesimus Workshop registration information. Contact me at 303-956-7898 if you have questions.

We are excited to celebrate two TUMI graduations—one in December (3 graduates) at the women's prison and one in January (2 graduates) at the men's prison. I will share the highlights of the graduation ceremonies in my next newsletter.

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 in 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.

New Trauma Healing Program

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 group setting, Certified Trauma Healing group leaders bring together proven mental health practices and the wisdom of the Bible in a way that's accessible and begins to remove those roadblocks.

The Trauma Healing program combines the wisdom of scripture, proven mental health practices, and the power of community. It is delivered through small group settings. The program equips church leaders (for example, your Elders, associate pastors, and lay leaders) and ministry leaders with mental health and biblical resources they need to lead others to receive healing and freedom from trauma.

Ten men and women from different churches and ministries in the Denver Metro area attended the Trauma Healing facilitator course Thursday, September 20 through Saturday, September 22, —including my pastor, Christian, me, and lay members of our church. We participated in the trauma healing sessions with the intent of becoming Certified Trauma Healing facilitators trained to safely and effectively lead vulnerable people through trauma healing.



Trauma Healing facilitator class at Crosswind Church

The Trauma Healing facilitator sessions were developed so that the students can experience, equip, and practice in a togetherness model. To begin our training, we completed the same Trauma Healing sessions that we will offer to those whom we minister. The last part of training was for facilitator certification.

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Onesimus Workshop Highlights

Big kudos to Pastor Ramon Navarro, Lead Pastor at Crosswind Hope & Restoration Center, for partnering with Rev. Rich Esselstrom, Christian, and me in planning and hosting a successful Onesimus Workshop.

Onesimus, which means "useful", was a runaway slave who became Paul's helpful protégé while in prison. In the book of Philemon, Paul took Onesimus in and found him to be an asset in ministry. Paul encouraged Philemon to receive him as 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 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.

Thirty people participated in the workshop, representing churches and ministries throughout the Denver-Metro area. Those who attended learned how difficult it is for released prisoners to succeed outside the prison.



Onesimus Workshop at Crosswind Church

Crosswind attendee feedback

Pastor Ramon would like to have the workshop yearly so that more members and pastors in his church network attend. Crosswind Church members who attended the workshop indicated they would like to be involved in identifying a vision for prison ministry at Crosswind. One attendee wants to become a TUMI Mentor and is taking the precursor course for her training.
(Continued on page 3 – right column)

TUMI International

In November, World Impact's TUMI International team invited two of our contacts from India to the first ever Indian Update conference in Wichita, KS. Our contact in Kolkata, West Bengal has a TUMI class, an Evangel Church Planting school, and three Fight the Good Fight of Faith classes—each in a different language. His team is translating the TUMI curriculum for us into the Bengali language.

Our contact in the state of Tamil Nadu was invited but illness in his family prevented his attending. He plans to visit us in December. He has started many Fight the Good Fight of Faith classes with over 100 students. His team is translating the TUMI curriculum into three different languages that will cover three states in southern India.

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.

New Trauma Healing Program

(continued from page 1)

Let the healing begin!! Crosswind Church has already started offering to our members the six Trauma Healing sessions in small-groups limited to 12. For our first sessions, the women who took the training are leading the women, and the men who took the training are leading the men. In the future, we may offer the Trauma Healing sessions in combined groups of men and women and to teens.

In March 2024, a TUMI mentor and I will be leading small-group, Trauma Healing sessions at the men's prison where we offer TUMI. The Chaplain on staff considers this course critical by providing inmates with hope through healing from trauma.

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

Onesimus Workshop Highlights (continued)

Crosswind attendee feedback (continued)

Following are some of the Crosswind Church member's evaluation comments.

Jeremiah shared: He was impacted by "... *the unfortunate stigma that is attached to the formerly incarcerated. Especially our brothers and sisters in Christ who face daily hardships, such as not being able to find a home church or being turned down by congregations.*"

Jan shared: "*This workshop has moved me to understand how our brothers and sisters face the difficulties of prison reentry. ... Openness & community are key to us evolving and transforming this ministry locally.*"

Other attendee's feedback

Julian shared: "*I got to network with some really great people and met my future treatment provider. I also got to share my story and possibly help others in their ministry.*"

Edward shared: "*I am more hopeful. Being formerly incarcerated is discouraging, but knowing people are actually working to incorporate released prisoners into their communities is encouraging.*"

Rose shared: "*<The workshop> gave me an outlet to talk to people without fear of rejection.*"

Ann shared: "*This workshop really opened my eyes to so many issues around prison life and reentry. Different programs and experiences. It was so helpful.*"

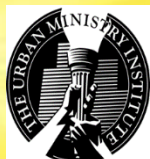
Vance shared: "*I loved the opportunity to share and encourage people wanting to support returning citizens.*"

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 2023 and 2024.
- Prayer for our Trauma Healing sessions to effectively lead vulnerable people through trauma healing.
- Prayer over grant approval to start three new TUMI locations.
- Prayer for successful new Onesimus Workshop at South Fellowship in Littleton on February 10.
- 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 payment 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 me in your end-of-year 2023 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.