



WORLD
IMPACT

BULLETIN
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The Urban Ministry Institute

Dr. Don Davis, TUMI Director, with the TUMI curriculum

The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) provides seminary-level training for the urban poor at minimal cost. God is transforming former-gang members and drug addicts into church leaders, pastors, teachers and evangelists.

TUMI Curriculum is divided into 16 eight-week courses that include four lessons each. The courses cover biblical studies, theology and ethics, Christian ministry and urban mission. Historically orthodox and doctrinally evangelical, each course includes a Mentor's guide, a Student workbook, two DVDs (four hours of video teaching), quizzes, exams and practical-learning projects.

65 satellite campuses training more than 500 students.

AUSTIN CHIANG *Los Angeles, CA*

At age six, Austin Chiang's world came crashing down. As his father walked toward their house, a neighbor shot him. Austin helplessly watched his father bleeding on the sidewalk. This experience left a permanent scar. By Junior High, Austin had discovered marijuana and alcohol. He was initiated into a gang and became active in turf wars, robberies, beatings and drive-by shootings.

INCARCERATED

At age 15, Austin was arrested for possession of a firearm. Three years later, he was arrested again when the police discovered a gun hidden under his car seat. He spent four years in prison running with an Hispanic gang, fighting and participating in riots. He heard about Jesus in prison, but rejected Him; he mocked Christians, viewing them as weak, hypocritical and cowardly.



RECIDIVATED

A year after being released from prison, Austin was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and sentenced to another four years. As he was being booked, he gave his life to Christ, lifting his hands and falling down on his knees before everyone—confessing his need for a Savior.

REVIVAL

Through the eyes of Christ, life in prison looked vastly different. Austin separated himself from the politics of the gangs and took a stand for the Gospel, fully expecting to get beaten or stabbed. Every night he prayed with prisoners in his dorm, studied God's Word, and shared the good news about Christ with anyone who would listen.

In March 2008, Austin began taking **TUMI** classes through our partnership with **Prison Fellowship** (see below). He remembers, "I desired to do my best to study to show myself approved."



Austin started a Bible study that in one year grew from eight to 27 men. He used what he was learning from **TUMI** to teach the Word of God and to equip other inmates to continue the Bible study after he was paroled. Austin also shared the gospel with his dad during a prison visit; his father accepted Christ after seeing the difference God has made in Austin's life.

RELEASE

In September 2009, Austin was released from prison. He continued his theological education through **TUMI** in Los Angeles. His compassion for hurting people has fueled his deep desire to become a pastor and to plant churches in the city. Austin says, "**TUMI** is training leaders to go into the neediest places, poverty-stricken urban areas that need to be loved and need to hear about Jesus. I want to be a part of what God is doing here in the city."

As an emerging church leader, **TUMI** is the highlight of Austin's week, "I feel so thankful to be a part of what God is doing through **TUMI**. It's amazing to sit across the table from other men of God who are training to be pastors, leaders and ministers of the gospel. Soon, we will all be sent to different parts of the city and partner together to make an impact for God's Kingdom. That's exciting! I never thought God could use me in this way."

WORLD IMPACT'S PARTNERSHIP WITH PRISON FELLOWSHIP (PF)

In 2005, Keith Phillips met with PF's President, Mark Early, at our **TUMI** satellite in Ellsworth Prison in Kansas, where our relationship with PF began. We agreed to expand **TUMI** into other prisons, building on PF's excellent evangelism and discipleship with World Impact's expertise in leadership development.

Clef Irby, PF's Southern California Director, worked with Don Allsman (**TUMI**'s Satellite Director) to empower inmates to lead the urban church after their release, especially in World Impact church plants.

This is a win-win relationship. PF equips leaders in prison, and World Impact receives theologically-trained pastors who are culturally adept to lead churches in the inner city. Clef Irby believes, “The next generation of church leadership will come from inmates who are incarcerated.”

Two years ago, PF and World Impact began a three-year pilot project to establish **TUMI** satellites in Southern California prisons. Because this is a demanding program, designed for only the most serious students who want to be leaders in the Church, we estimated we would have seven inmates per site.

Amazingly, in our first locations—RJ Donovan (San Diego), California Rehabilitation Center (Norco) and Centinela (near El Centro)—we have 148 students, with more prisons seeking to open satellites.

Inmates who are released before finishing their **TUMI** training in prison continue training with World Impact until they complete their 16-course certification.

As we complete the translation of our **TUMI** curriculum into Spanish, we can expand our partnership with PF by starting **TUMI** sites in Mexican prisons.

THE CALIFORNIA REHABILITATION CENTER (CRC) Norco, CA

The **TUMI** satellite at Norco, operated by Prison Fellowship, opened in February 2008 and has finished seven of the 16 courses. This is where Austin was enrolled in **TUMI**.

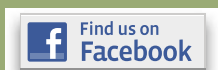
Each week, 30 inmates filter into the chapel. They begin their session singing praise songs and hymns. Their singing is not casual. They sing as men who long to be released from Norco, but also to be released to ministry outside the prison walls. Their discussion reveals their commitment to become more effective leaders for Christ. They complete rigorous homework assignments, write papers demonstrating careful research and reflection and are prepared for class, giving insightful comments from various authors and theologians. The depth of their hunger for the Kingdom of God is remarkable, considering that some never got past seventh grade.



Dr. Keith Phillips with William Anderson (PF Arizona) and Clef Irby (PF California).

Kenneth represents most of the men when he asked, “Can World Impact help me beyond my **TUMI** classes in prison? Can World Impact help me continue my theological training after my release? Can World Impact help me find a church which is willing to let me serve?”

We told Kenneth what we tell every student: “The vision of **TUMI** is you; **TUMI** students are the future leadership of our inner-city church planting.” By the look on Kenneth’s face, it was evident that few people express such confidence in him.



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NORCO PRISON VOLUNTEERS

Cindy and John McGaffey minister together at **TUMI**'s satellite in Norco Prison. Cindy is the site coordinator and John mentors the students, along with Owen (below left).



Cindy McGaffey, John McGaffey and Keith Phillips

Cindy: "Serving in **TUMI** has brought our marriage together in a fantastic way. We enjoy serving together. When we heard about **TUMI**, I was blown away—I started crying. The Lord had laid it on our hearts to help inmates get back on the street and share Christ.

"Our relationships with the students are so close. They are like family. I track their grades, listen to their scripture memorization, and grade their ministry projects. They write amazing stuff. They not only learn, but put their knowledge into practical ministry. It is starting to change the prisons. Because of **TUMI**, many inmates are understanding a commitment to Kingdom culture and rejecting prison culture. Recently, one inmate refused to join in a prison fight because of his commitments. He told others, 'I don't do that anymore.' We have a number of students who are gems. They will make great pastors. They know the Bible better than I do."

John: "**TUMI** is challenging to us. Even though I've studied the Bible, I learn a lot. Dr. Davis' knowledge of the Word is amazing. It's extremely in-depth. There are many occasions of learning new truth. Every week I learn something and am blessed. This experience has changed my life. I now look at prisoners in a new way—I see them as individuals who want to be relevant and loved. I can help meet their spiritual needs. I can look at them with the love that God has for them.

"They are leading people to the Lord, starting Bible studies. Their reputation as **TUMI** men is developing in the prison yard. They have a credible testimony. Other inmates are recognizing them as Church leaders being trained for the ministry. The Church is growing on the inside. There are 30 men training for ministry in a prison yard of 1100. The students treat each other with great respect. They carefully listen to one another, even when some know the Word better than others."

TUMI Student Returns to Mentor Others in Norco Prison



Owen

Owen was sent to prison for manufacturing speed. In 1991, he gave his heart to the Lord. In 1999, Owen was released from prison, but asked God for a way to come back and help other inmates take Christ into their hearts. He received permission

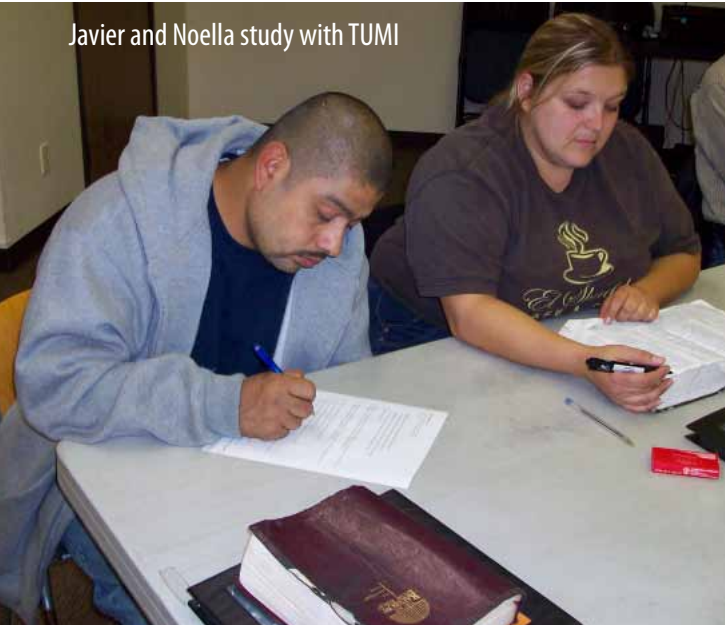
to mentor **TUMI** students along with John McGaffey. Owen is hoping to set up another **TUMI** satellite outside the prison.

One of Owen's students said, "TUMI means everything to me. It is something wonderful in a place that is not. It is the topic of most of my conversations, and the one thing training me for the ministry that awaits me."

Owen runs a plumbing business with one of his three sons. He has been mentoring **TUMI** students for more than two years. He is active in his church and runs two men's homes in San Bernardino.

JAVIER AND NOELLA *San Diego, CA*

Javier, a former-drug dealer, addict and convict was miserable until his uncle prayed for him and Javier trusted Jesus. Since that moment, he has been free from his addictions and spends all his available time at church.



Javier and Noella study with TUMI

Noella used to bar tend and help Javier with his interstate drug trafficking. She was very violent before one of her customers prayed for her and she trusted in Jesus. She has served the Lord faithfully since then.

Javier and Noella, who have known each other for 15 years, were married in 2002. Over the last eight years, God has renewed and transformed their lives.

Javier and Noella started attending **TUMI** a year ago when a **TUMI** student, who patronizes Noella's coffee house, **El Shaddai**, invited them. Noella says, "**TUMI** has given us a basis of truth and a solid foundation for our Bible studies at **El Shaddai** on Thursdays and Saturdays. People, who will not enter a church, hear the Gospel at **El Shaddai**. Javier and Noella envision themselves on the mission field or pastoring a church someday.

In greater San Diego 168 leaders are being trained by TUMI—118 in three prisons with Prison Fellowship; more than 30 with a church-planting movement in Tijuana and more than 20 in San Diego.



Noella leading Bible study

CYNTHIA CREELMAN *Chester, PA*

Cynthia had an abusive past that included satanic rituals and emotional, physical and sexual abuse. God took her through a tremendous healing process. Then, for 31 years, she ministered in her community.



Cynthia in class at TUMI

After Cynthia heard Keith Phillips speak at her church, the Lord led her to take courses at **TUMI**. Cynthia became confident in her biblical knowledge. She memorized Scripture and is more proactive in ministry because of the relevant training.

Cynthia ministers to women in prison and her neighbors. She helped start a church. Cynthia says, "Being in **TUMI** was part of God's restoration my past. Having quit school when I was 16, I am now an A+ student in **TUMI**. God is giving me a future."

God calls the most unexpected people to do His work

- * *Moses* – a murderer and a fugitive from justice.
- * *David* – a shepherd, an adulterer, a murderer.
- * *Saul* – persecutor of His Church, who was, at least, an accomplice to murder.
- * *Rahab* – a prostitute.
- * *Peter* – a fisherman, who denied his Master.

Now, the Lord is calling former gangsters and addicts, and others who grew up in humble circumstances to reach America's 50 million urban poor. Some, like Rev. William Gwynn, who brought 20 of his congregation's leaders to study with him at **TUMI**, serve established congregations. Others, like Austin, are preparing to launch new churches.



Rev. Gwynn and his TUMI-trained church leaders

We teach hundreds of students in scores of satellites. But, we need your help to maintain our current enrollment and to expand our outreach. Here is how you can invest in vital churches in America's cities:

- * \$60 sponsors one student to take a class at **The Urban Ministry Institute**; \$120 for two classes.
- * \$400 provides a full set of textbooks for a student who cannot afford them (or for a satellite library).
- * \$1000 sponsors one urban pastor to complete his seminary-level education and receive a certificate.
- * \$1500 will complete the translation of one course into Spanish.
- * \$5000 will establish a TUMI satellite, where we will equip pastors to sharpen their skills as God's appointed representatives.

Please give generously to this strategic investment that will result in preparing pastors for our cities.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DR. KEITH PHILLIPS
President

**The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

Psalm 118:22



2001 S. Vermont Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90007 • 323.735.1137 • 323.735.2576 fax • wiinfo@worldimpact.org
In Canada: Box 12085 • Murrayville RPO • Langley, BC v3A 9J5

www.worldimpact.org • 323.735.1137

