

CINDY'S STORY continued...

In 1996 when my youngest son was beginning his senior year I knew I was going to experience major empty nest syndrome when he graduated since I had spent so much time with him. So I started praying that if God wanted to use me somehow in ministry I was willing but if he didn't show me something by the end of the school year then I would just get a job.

It just so happens that the Church we were attending decided to feature local ministries during their mission conference that year rather than foreign missions. Every night for a week I felt like two or three local ministries auditioned for me while I prayed for God to show me where He wanted me. Several ministries struck my heart that week including REST. As I checked them out REST kept coming to the top. They said that what they needed were women to lead support groups in Churches. By the end of the week I volunteered for the support group leadership.

During the second meeting for support group leaders the director ask us to share what our spiritual gifts were. When I said that my main one was teaching the director gave me a very funny look, which I interpreted as her not believing me. At the end of the meeting she called me over and explained to me that she had been asked to duplicate the ministry that she had in Chester County Prison in Delaware County Prison but she was afraid of stretching the ministry too thin. So without telling anyone else she had begun praying that if God wanted her to do it that he would send another teacher to take her place at Chester County. She went on to say that when I said that my spiritual gift was teaching that she felt the Holy Spirit tell her that I was the teacher He was sending.

She asked me to consider teaching the Bible Study at Chester County Prison. Although, it seemed like a big jump from leading support groups in a church to teaching a Bible study in prison I asked if I could observe the study for a month before I committed and she said yes. After the first week I knew that this was where God wanted to use me.