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## Cyd's Story

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I first met Judy Boen when she was overseeing the Intercessory Prayer Team at New Life Community Church. Judy talked about a recovery home she had called Captive Hearts and emphasized how they help women coming out of prison, but I was not interested. My few encounters with women from prison had not been successful and all I could imagine was theft and breaking up knife fights. I had “bigger” things to do for Jesus.

I had been an intercessor before moving to the Central Coast and missed being involved in the ministry. I found out they met on Saturdays and, at that time, my current job schedule would not allow me to do that.

I have a deep love for the Bible and for learning. I have been blessed in my life with God’s healings, countless interventions, and His presence and protection. I have worked with broken, abused, angry and often addicted women for many years. It did not bother me that the work required so much energy, but it often felt futile, as most of the women would go right back to the life they had come from. I did not understand at that time that most had no other alternative. I did not understand that to grow and heal, a person needs to be in a safe place where they feel accepted and loved.

I have a few callings on my life but the strongest is to teach. I never get tired of talking about Jesus or the Word. I started a single parent prayer group at New Life and really loved the people who attended every week, but I felt like I should be doing more. I began to ask God.

A few months later, our company had cutbacks and I unexpectedly lost my job. This was a shock for both my ego and me. I was desperate not to leave this area and told God I would do *anything* if He would allow me to stay.

One day, Judy Boen moved in next door. Judy and Janis were both so easy to be around, but we were all busy and most of our encounters were brief. Still, when I saw them I would remember Captive Hearts. In 2008, I saw in the *New Life Notepad*, which lists miscellaneous ads for buying selling, etc., that Captive Hearts was looking for a live-in house manager. To be honest, this was not something I thought I wanted to do. I had been involved with drugs and alcohol in high school and for a year or so after. I never wanted to go back or be involved with anyone who used drugs ever again.

I have to say that before I finished reading the ad, I felt the Spirit confirming that this is where He wanted me. I actually began to panic a little. “Oh no!” I thought, “This

cannot be right!” Secretly hoping the position would be filled, I prayed for several days, just in case I had misunderstood God. I gave Him every opportunity to tell me He had something else for me. But to my dismay, He did not. It was not something I thought I was called to do—nor would I ever want to do. But with a contemptuous spirit, I interviewed, patting myself on the back for my longsuffering and obedience. Judy thanked me for coming in and told me they would pray about it. I wanted to tell her that I had already tried that and there was no way out.

Within a few days, she called to let me know I had the job. I committed to stay for 6 months and have now been here 7 years. It was nothing like I feared and now I was able to teach the Bible to a captive audience. During this time, I have gone back to school and am now the Program Director along with my faithful friend and co-worker LeeAnn Smith.

The Lord showed me right away that my first responsibility was to create a safe and loving atmosphere in the home where each woman feels accepted and that this, coupled with His presence, would separate Captive Hearts from all other recovery homes in our area. It has. He reminded me that love is a decision and if I make that decision, I will be able to treat everyone equally. He also showed me that all have been hurt and have trust issues due to that hurt. He clearly told me that to heal, they must gain some trust and that my job is to win them over. Nearly every time I am frustrated and take it to God, His answer is to go spend time with them, be genuine and win them over.

I can see that all my background working with the broken, the countless hours I spent listening, learning, studying and investigating the Bible, in addition to very personal experiences with God, have all led up to this.

I am so very thankful to Judy Boen and Captive Hearts. I am thankful to a persistent God who is not afraid to take things away from His stubborn child to give her what she does not even know she loves, and that He does it with boundless grace and an immense sense of humor.

—Cyd Sebring

(Continued on next page)



## CYD'S STORY (CONT'D)



LeeAnn Smith and I hold the position of Program Director at Captive Hearts Recovery Services. We divide the responsibilities but discuss everything together before making decisions. We are licensed and very professional about the program we

run but are also very personally involved with each individual woman who comes into our home. Captive Hearts is an intensive 12-Step program, but we do not seek a higher power as we have Jesus Christ, who is the Highest Power! Licensed counselors oversee all our psycho educational groups and group therapies. Everything we do is for the purpose of saving, healing and restoration to the one true Healer. Along with Sandra Davick, our house manager, we follow God's leading to the best of our ability and feel these reasons are what make Captive Hearts unique from any other recovery program.

## SEEDS & NEEDS

- **2 House managers for the ranch. 3-4 years clean and sober, leader, sound Christian men with recovery experience**
- **Truck for the ranch**
- **2 Chests of drawers for women's recovery home**
- **Someone to do yard cleanup (weed whacking) at women's recovery home**
- **More donors for our Scholarship Fund**
- **Good condition Bibles for the jail**

## GIVE TO A WORTHY CAUSE

Our giving has been down for the past few months so we would like to encourage you to invest into good soil with lasting results. For your convenience, you can go to our website, [captivehearts.org](http://captivehearts.org) and give online. You can pay by either credit card or PayPal. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following who give of their business products to encourage our ladies:

Bernice Johnson — Mary Kay Products  
A to Z Books — Laura & Pat who give for the jail  
Jockey Stores—Who give clothing items to our ladies

## TURN AROUND RANCH

In 1980, I felt impressed of the Lord that someday He would allow me to have a ranch that would enable men and women to be spiritually healed, nurtured and taught the things of God and restored to their families and children. At that time, I was told the ranch was to be called "Turn Around Ranch." All these years, I've wondered when God's timing would allow this miracle to unfold.

Most recently, we began to talk about opening a men's home that would be available for the men in our community to get the same teaching as our precious women. At our last Board of Directors meeting, one of our directors who feels this "is the time" stated, *"I think we need to pursue the ranch."*

Since that meeting, we found out there is property already set up as a ranch in our area, 35 acres with homes, a church building, pool, etc., already in existence. It is coming on the market for \$1.4 million, which is nothing to God. Back in 1980, when God spoke to my heart, He already knew where the property was located; and if this is it (which I am praying it is), we are going to stand back and watch Him work in putting it together.

I would like to call a night of prayer and share for those who love Captive Hearts and who want to stand with us as we launch this next phase of the ministry. On Friday evening, Oct. 9th, at 6:00 pm, we will be meeting at Shouts of Grace, 1115 E. Grand Ave. in Arroyo Grande. (Call to verify location as it could possibly change.) Please tell your friends and business associates who want to invest into something that has eternal value.

