



Equipping Christians
to live out their unique
God-given purpose

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Chris Tara

Chris Tara was leading the monthly men's breakfast at his church. It was hard to recruit speakers so he was thrilled when a friend agreed to talk about his ministry to prisoners at the county jail.

As the talk began, Chris sensed God tapping him on the shoulder and whispering, "*Chris, pay attention.*" He felt a growing excitement as Jim described the ministry. Once a week volunteers from 8 churches led Bible studies in various units of the prison. On the second Sunday of each month they held a worship service for the inmates.

Chris was drawn to the ministry, but found himself finding reasons he couldn't be involved. "*The prison is probably too far away.*" It turned out the prison was 15 minutes from his home. "*The program is probably held on a night I'm busy.*" He found out the Bible Study was on Tuesday evenings - the only evening Chris had free.

Before Chris left the breakfast he knew God was calling him to volunteer in the prison ministry. He now leads the Bible study and often gives the message at the Sunday service.

Looking back Chris' only regret is that he can't spend more time at the prison. "*I can't imagine not doing this work,*" Chris said. "*I know that prison ministry will always be part of my life.*"

His greatest desire is for the inmates to experience freedom on the inside. He longs for them to come to salvation and grow more mature in Christ. Recently he had the joy of watching a newly released man being baptized.

God revealed Chris' calling at a Men's breakfast. By obeying God Chris is experiencing great joy in serving others. He concluded, "*It is an awesome privilege to do something God has called you to do.*"

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