Volunteer and Mentor: Deb Ausley

After my children left home, God began weighing on my heart to use my time and resources for Him thru volunteering. I began looking for an opportunity to serve with different organizations which I thought I would enjoy -perhaps working with small children or the elderly but doors were not opening for me. I decided to ask my dear friend Jennifer Partin to have coffee to pick her brain about "how" to get involved as a volunteer somewhere. I knew she was serving in prison ministry as the Executive Director of Prodigal Ministries- a Christian aftercare program for men and women released from prison.

After catching up over coffee and explaining how I felt God was calling me, she boldly asked me to come meet the ladies at the McCauley House.  I was a little nervous and unsure how the I would relate to women coming out of incarceration as well as how the ladies would relate to me. I remember walking up the steps of this beautiful old home and as the door was answered by one of the residents, my life was forever changed. Within a few minutes, I was surrounded by some of the most beautiful, loving, kind, honest, joyful and grateful women. By the end of the evening, they asked if I would come back. I said yes!

Walking alongside Jennifer, I have witnessed the true meaning of Grace. I am grateful for the opportunity to co-lead a Bible study program on Thursday nights with Susan Kidwell, who models the perfect love of Jesus.  I am also honored to mentor these precious ladies and help uncover God’s purpose for their lives thru the pain.

I have witnessed women come straight from prison and walk into this home scared and humbled. Prodigal Ministries provides a safe sanctuary to begin to breathe again. Programs are in place to teach life skills, provide drug and alcohol counseling and build a firm foundation in Christ thru bible study. Overtime I have watched God move mountains and calm the roaring seas. Restoration and transformation starts occurring thru physical, mental and emotional healing. I have seen God begin to rebuild family relationships. He continues to provide outrageous opportunities. He answers bold prayers and these women step out in faith toward the abundant life God has planned for them full of joy, peace and purpose.

I am so grateful to be a part of a ministry that is truly saving lives. Selfishly, it is providing me with some of the best relationships I have ever had in my life. One sweet friend told me that when I am 90 and she is 70,  she hopes we are still wonderful friends. I hope so too as these are my Sisters in Christ who I absolutely adore. I am simply called to love them outrageously and unconditionally as Christ loves me.