

Christian Connection's Testimony

How Was Christian Connection Started?

Christian Connection's ministry partners first met in 2001 at a Mom's Bible Study at their church. One of the partners, Christina Brannon, was going through a difficult time in her marriage and was beginning the study "Reconciling God's Way" through Live the Life Ministries. Part of this program included Christina having two Christian support partners. She asked Sharon Crews and Debbie Leonard to be her support partners and they both agreed. The following year, the three of them became prayer partners who agreed to pray together on a weekly basis for their marriages, families and each other. They have been prayer partners ever since.

Sharon has owned a desktop publishing company for over 10 years. It has always been very apparent that God had His hand in her business. During November 2003, Sharon's major account informed her that they were moving production in house beginning January 2004. Upon receiving this news, Sharon felt at peace and realized that God had something else planned for her.

In January 2004, Sharon felt called to pray about starting a magazine in Tallahassee. She awoke the next morning with thoughts of publishing a Christian resource directory. The front section of the directory would consist of listings for Christian ministries, churches, and schools. These listings would be free of charge. The back section would consist of paid full color display advertisements for Christian businesses and service professionals. Testimonies from clients would also be used. Every detail came to her that morning, even the name, Christian Connection. Sharon had the knowledge and equipment to produce the magazine. She was amazed at the details that God gave her and knew immediately that this was a calling from God. Based on her past work experience, she knew she could not handle this calling alone. Her initial thought was that she needed two partners, one to oversee advertising sales and the other to write and edit the magazine.

Sharon shared the vision with her prayer partners and at her Mom's Bible Study. Strong confirmation came and she knew that in God's timing, this vision was going to become a reality. During Holy Week 2004 Sharon, Christina and Debbie fasted. They lifted up Christian Connection and shortly after the fast Christina told Sharon she wanted to help. Two months later, Debbie asked if there was any way she could be involved. None of them were sure of any of the details, but knew that someday they would be working together.

By September 2004, each of them knew their roles. Sharon is Publisher and Art Director. Christina resigned from the Tallahassee Police Department in January 2005 to become Sales Account Executive. Debbie utilizes her skills as Writer/Editor. In February 2005, Sonrise Publishing Inc., was officially formed and the ministry of Christian Connection became a reality!