

## **Interview with Cindy Tuttle by Womensselfesteem.com**

Dorothy - Cindy...thank you for coming and sharing your time with us this evening.

Dorothy - I promise to not ask you anything to personal.

Cindy\_Tuttle - Thank you for having me.

Dorothy -It is our pleasure.

Dorothy -Lets begin this interview with you Cindy....sharing a little bit about Cindy...where you are from ...ect.

Cindy\_Tuttle - I am from Sacramento Calif. I work with adults who have severe mental illness and I have a sister and a mother who is 95 years old.

Dorothy -When did you begin writing in your life?

Dorothy -Not necessarily this book but other writings.

Cindy\_Tuttle - I started a journal about 25 years ago. Started doing poetry 10 years ago and started writing books 1 year ago.

Dorothy -So you have been on the path of actually writing your own book for a long time?

Cindy\_Tuttle - Well I actually started wring Joyful, Surrender about a year ago. But wrote for my own enjoyment over 20 years ago.

Dorothy -Do you have any favorite Authors or books that you would say have influenced your life?

Cindy\_Tuttle - I like Christian book by Joyce Rupp Merton and lately I have been very deep into Mother Teresa

Dorothy -I will join you in regards to Mother Teresa...she is an amazing women..one to be looked up to.

Dorothy -What inspired you to write Joyful Surrender?

Cindy\_Tuttle - I wanted to share my great love and joy in following God and to help others in their own spiritual path.

Dorothy- In reading Joyful Surrender...I will say that you have achieved that goal very well.

Dorothy -About the title...JOYFUL SURRENDER..how did you come up with that?

Cindy\_Tuttle - Thank you Dorothy

Dorothy -:)

Cindy\_Tuttle - The title seemed to say how I try to open myself totally to God. To try and surrender my life to God while at the same time trying to bring His compassion to people I meet.

Dorothy- Joyful Surrender is about you & your Spiritual Searchings....do you feel that writing this book has helped you in any way in your life?

Cindy\_Tuttle - It has helped me a lot. It made me reflect on the things I reflected on as I developed my vows and looking back at my life and how God was and is so involved.

Dorothy -When did you first begin to realize that your commitment to Serve God was so necessary? Some say they saw a sign...was it like that for you?

Cindy\_Tuttle- I don't think I saw a sign. It was more of a strong deep urging is me. Something I just couldn't ignore.

Dorothy -What part did the disabled people you mention in your book play in awakening your won awareness in your search?

Cindy\_Tuttle - A lot.They helped me see that our cultures views of success and happiness were so different than the people I try and help have. For some of them it was being able to hold a spoon and eat something.

Dorothy -It is truly amazing how everyone views what is important in life. It only takes a shortcoming or disability to realize the real gifts we have.

Cindy\_Tuttle - I agree.

Dorothy -What does it mean to you, 'To Follow Jesus'?

Cindy\_Tuttle - It means to let the love I have received from Jesus be given to others. To empty myself in a sense so that Jesus can become alive in me in some small way. To let His love be born every day. If that makes any sense.

Dorothy -That makes complete sense.

Dorothy -Was there a difficult part in telling your story and if so...what was it?

Cindy\_Tuttle - I wondered if I should tell about the teen ager who was going to kill me. That was such a big event in my life and kind of personal. But after I thought about it I thought that it was the only way I could tell what God has done for me.I wondered if I was trying to make myself a big deal or something.

Dorothy -I do not look at it that way at all. I look at it as more of a divine intervention. It may just be the catalyst that put you on your course of seeking Spirituality.

Dorothy -It is part of who you are and how you came to be.

Cindy\_Tuttle - It was.

Dorothy -Is there any one who you would consider played a strong part in making your book possible?

Cindy\_Tuttle - I would say the person that helped me work through the abuse and my spiritual adviser.

Dorothy -You mentioned earlier in the interview that it took you one year to write Joyful Surrender...did you run into any roadblocks on the way?

Cindy\_Tuttle - Well- the only road block I can remember is getting the grammar right. That isn't my strong suit.

Dorothy- Well if that is the toughest part...I will say that someone was definitely watching over you!

Dorothy -Have you done any traveling in order to promote Joyful Surrender?

Cindy\_Tuttle - No. I wouldn't mind doing that though.

Dorothy -Are you planning another book anytime soon?

Cindy\_Tuttle - Yes. I am working with Paulist Press on a book called Every Day with Mother Teresa. I also have two children books that I am trying g to find a publisher for and I am working on a book where I use parts of psalm 27 to help us live with courage and hope.

Dorothy -Very nice to hear...I look forward to reviewing those for you.

Dorothy-Last question for you Cindy & by the way you have been fantastic....Is there a message that you hope your readers will grasp from your story?

Cindy\_Tuttle - Yes. I guess it would be that I believe everyone has a purpose and goodness and my hope is my readers know how loved they are.

Dorothy -I want to take a minute more to thank Cindy Tuttle for being here tonight ...now I will sit back and allow you very patient ladies to share a few thoughts of your won! Thank you and God Bless you Cindy Tuttle!

Cindy\_Tuttle- Thank you Dorothy

Dorothy -You are most welcome.

Interview by Dorothy Lafrinere (Daytona Beach, Florida)

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