

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2009

Mission Tuesday #42



"Dear children, let us not love with words...but with actions and in truth." -1 John 3:18

My last Mission Tuesday was almost a week ago. Time has gotten away from me. This probably won't be my normal Mission Tuesday post, as this Tuesday experience was different for me.

I guess, honestly, I've been putting off writing about my Mission Tuesday, last Tuesday. The more I think about that day, the more saddened I become and the more ashamed I feel. Last Tuesday was a tough day for me emotionally, and I let my feelings and emotions override and take over. I relied on MY strength throughout the day--which I realized too late--rather than relying on God's strength. BIG mistake!

As the day went on, I became more and more stressed, agitated and bothered. I didn't like the way I felt. With each request or question that was asked of me, my attitude got worse. I knew this wasn't good. I felt my heart becoming hardened, and I didn't like it. I began to lose patience with people...with everyone but Kim, a volunteer and friend.

Kim, though, was feeling the same way I was, I later found out. We went about our day, doing the things we normally do, but not with the same loving attitudes. I don't think Kim would mind me sharing this, because I think we both realized later that God used this day to teach us and to grow us.

Kim and I talked to Phyllis toward the end of the day, and we shared with her how we were feeling. Phyllis, in her kind-hearted manner, shared with us that Christmas week is

not a "normal" week for many of the people we serve. Christmas can be a difficult time for our friends at Mission of Hope, and when people are hurting, they have a difficult time being themselves. Their hurts can come out in all sorts of ways...I was seeing that in their lives, and in also working through some hurts of my own, I was seeing that in my life.

I remembered a saying I heard through my business years ago... *"Hurting people, hurt people."* When people are hurting, they will have a tendency to hurt others. Some of my friends at the Mission were hurting last week. Why didn't I realize that...instead of getting irritated, agitated and frustrated? Deep down, I was hurting last week. But I didn't seek God to help me work through that, instead I hurt others with my insensitivity...those who were closest to me.

God has really brought this to my attention...especially through Christmas. I've asked Him to again soften my heart...to give me a compassion that I feel I've lost...and to help me to love others better. This is something I cannot do on my own...I tried last week and I failed miserably.

I don't mean this post to be a "downer." It would be great if I could write each week that each Tuesday was fabulous and it was a joy-filled time of serving. It would be great if I could write that each time went like clockwork and that there was nothing but smiles throughout the day. But if I did that, it wouldn't be real. It would be fake. When God shows me something about myself, it's painful sometimes. And when it has to do with something about me which affects those I love, and Mission of Hope that I love, it's VERY painful.

I should have responded differently to those who were hurting. I should have stopped and prayed with Kim for us both, when we were realizing we were struggling. I should have taken my own hurt to God and asked Him to help me through it. I have asked God to forgive me, and for each person that comes to mind that I may have been insensitive to, I will ask for their forgiveness this week. I'm ready to move on to this week and to love others better...in a way they deserve.

I'm thankful today that God continues to use Mission of Hope to teach me and to grow me! And I'm thankful that God is a god of 2nd chances.