

Mission Tuesday #103



God continues to do a mighty work through Mission of Hope. I have heard many of our Mission friends say recently that they like coming to Mission of Hope because "there's something different about this place" and "this place is different from the streets." I couldn't agree more. Many days it's overwhelming how I can feel God's presence there. As a staff, each morning we pray for God to be present throughout the day, and ask Him touch the many lives that come through the Mission's doors. It's humbling to witness Him doing that!

Bible studies are a very big part of the vision of Mission of Hope. Someday we will have Bible studies around clock. But for now we have three--Wednesdays at noon, Thursday evenings at 7pm, and Saturdays at 3:30pm. I am privileged to lead the one on Wednesdays. We are studying the book of Romans, and this week we studied chapter 6. There were nine of us in attendance, and I was the only female. We were a mixture of people around the table...some of us knew the Bible well, some of us knew nothing of the Bible, some of us lived in a home, some of us were homeless, some of us were younger in age, some of us were more mature in age, some of us came from a rough past, and some of us are living in a rough present. But all of us had a few things in common...we desire to learn more of God's Word, and to learn more of God, and we all seemed to struggle with something in our lives. We were alike in more ways than we realized.

As we read and discussed chapter 6 of Romans, I began to see some cool things God was doing. He was not only teaching us, but softening hearts and breaking down walls some of us have put around them. He was encouraging us to live righteous lives through Jesus. Verses 11 through 14 read, *"In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."*

Some of us shared how we used to let sin reign in our bodies, and still how we allow it to do so at times. Some of us shared how we fight against it daily. Some of us shared how we encourage others to fight against it. But we all agreed that God wants us to live as instruments of His righteousness, and we encouraged each other in our own ways to do so. Watching what was happening, listening to the discussion, and taking it all in was a humbling experience for me...that I could take part in such an amazing event just then...different people from different walks of life coming together to allow God's Word to touch hearts and lives. It brings tears to

my eyes as I relive it in my mind.

I believe we all left that Bible study different than when we started it at noon that day. Thanks be to God!

Another special thing that takes place the second and fourth Thursday afternoon of the month at Mission of Hope is a prayer group. This group is led by a wonderful and gifted volunteer. I've never been able to attend this group, because I usually have a meeting for the Mission at the very same time. But, since my meeting was cancelled for the afternoon, I joined in. WHAT A BLESSING! There were five of us together...praying for every aspect Mission of Hope and the people it serves. It was a pretty powerful hour of praise to God, thanksgiving for what He's done and continues to do, and lifting Mission of Hope up in prayer!

Yesterday I had a special conversation with a young man, who was in an accident when he was nineteen years old, and through that accident, his thinking and speech were affected. He was asking me all sorts of questions about God, sin, Jesus, and was honestly looking for some real-life answers. I stopped all of the other things I was doing...we talked, shared and listened to each other. He was trying so hard to understand. He's so hungry to find answers. He's attended the Wednesday Bible study before, and wants to come back. I knew at that very moment God had placed me in his path to listen to him and show him God's unconditional love. And one thing I didn't realize was that my children were listening to and watching the whole thing, as they were with me at the Mission yesterday. God was even planting seeds in my children through my interaction with this young man! God continues to amaze me!

As I began this post today, I am thankful that God continues to be present at Mission of Hope. I am thankful He continues to work through the Mission each day to touch the lives of others for His sake. As I see Him work on behalf of others' lives at Mission of Hope, my life continues to be touched by Him as well. It's a pretty amazing experience!

There certainly is something different about this place...that difference is the presence of God!!