

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2010

Mission Tuesday #44

"We are not here to be successful. We are here to be faithful." --Mother Teresa

Successful or faithful? What's more rewarding? Well, from my personal experiences, I choose the latter of the two. I've had more than my fair share of what the world terms "success" in my 40+ years. Let's see what comes to my mind here...excelled in most of the competitive sports I've played, and received honors and recognition in them. I have built a successful business in Mary Kay. I led my sales group to \$300,000 in yearly retail sales twice, and to \$400,000 once. I have earned nine free cars in Mary Kay, one being a pink Cadillac. I have earned three diamond rings for my personal sales. I have helped other women be successful. I've taught small groups of women and large groups. Blah, blah, blah, blah....

Before I go on, please know I don't share these things to brag or try to impress. And I stress, these things aren't *bad* things. But what's wrong with all of this is that I used to *live* to be successful. I wanted recognition, fame, prestige. I wanted to be *known*. I wanted the spotlight to be on *ME!* I think of all of this and my heart is saddened. All of those things are so empty, so temporary, so trivial in the big scheme of life. The more I achieved, the more I wanted. I could never truly feel satisfied. Was I at all faithful during that time? I'm not sure...

God has changed my heart, my focus, my life. (I am so thankful!) First of all, I see that I could have not done any of those things without God. Second, I no longer desire to be "successful" by the world's standards, but I want to be successful by *God's standards*. And I believe success in God's eyes is to be faithful to Him and His will for my life. I still love my career in Mary Kay, but my focus is no longer on the "things," but on the **One** who provides the "things." A free car doesn't mean much to me anymore if I'm not faithful in doing what He's calling me to do.

In addition to Mary Kay, God has called me to be faithful in serving Him at Mission of Hope. I've been serving Him there for 44 weeks now in a row. I've written about each week on my blog. In reading over some of them, I find myself being satisfied and excited about where God has me right now in my life. It feels good not to be wanting to achieve more, but appreciating and enjoying the work He has called me to do.

This Mission Tuesday I got the privilege of meeting Heidi, a new volunteer, who is moving to California in two weeks. She is a teacher, but isn't currently teaching as she is preparing to move. She wanted to find a shelter to help at, so she looked up area shelters online. She found Mission of Hope. She called the Mission of Hope Shelter, and they directed her to come to Mission of Hope. Tuesday was her first day. What a joy! She was so fun to get to know and work with! She helped Kimmie and I in the kitchen--putting together lunch, making gravy, doing dishes, serving lunch, organizing food donations, etc. She was so polite and so nice to the patrons. I wish she wasn't leaving in two weeks! I wish she could stay and be a part of our Mission of Hope family for a longer period of time! I thank God for giving me the chance to work alongside of her.

I think the most special part of the day was right before 9am. Phyllis, Kimmie, Jamie and I gathered in the kitchen area to pray before our work day began. It was so nice to join together to praise and thank God and to lift our concerns and needs for the day to Him. It truly was very special to me.

As the temperatures were only in the single digits on Tuesday, I thanked God again for Mission of Hope and for giving people a place to get out of the cold. Many received bags of food, a warm meal, clothes, hot coffee, and warm conversation with others.

Successful or faithful...I have been pondering these this morning. Would the world think I am successful for working at Mission of Hope? Probably not. But we are not here to be successful. We are here to be faithful.