

**SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2010**

## **Mission Tuesday #72**



"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1

My days Tuesday through Friday this week were spent at Mission of Hope. I have to say, I can't wait to arrive there each morning. Sure, I sometimes have the thoughts of, "I have so much to do, it sure would be nice to stay at home today." Or, "I really need to be working for my business today, instead of going into the Mission." Or, "I am feeling tired...I wish I could sleep in tomorrow instead of getting up early to get to the Mission."

But, those thoughts are brief, because I soon think of my friends at Mission of Hope...my friends who come into the Mission to use our services, or just to get a cup of coffee and a donut each morning, or maybe they need a place to just get out of the hot humid weather. I soon have pictures on my mind of Ron, John, Tasha, Tim, Rick, Al...my mind is soon flooded with many friends' faces...and I can't wait to see each of them. :)

As my drive is about a half-hour from my home to Mission of Hope, I use that time to pray as I'm driving. Again, God fills my mind with faces of those who have become my friends. And when I arrive at the Mission, I get to see them, talk to them and encourage them. I absolutely love what God has called me to do! And since today is Saturday, and I'm normally not there on Saturdays...believe it or not, I'm missing the Mission, and I'm missing my friends. I'm almost tempted to stop in today to say hi. Oh how God has changed me! :)

And I see how God is changing lives at the Mission. I'm thinking of one man in particular who is really making some positive changes in his life, and I know God is working in his heart. Phyllis gave him one of her Bibles before she left, and I'm praying he's reading it. I pray also, that one of these days God will draw him to church, and he will follow that drawing...maybe tomorrow?

I also witnessed yesterday how a man who was very, very angry at me weeks ago because I wasn't able to give him something he wanted, and who we had to ask to leave for a few weeks because of the results of his anger, was extremely pleasant and nice to me yesterday. He even apologized for being in my way (which he wasn't). I even saw a smile come across his face toward me for a brief second. God is softening his heart...I could see it in his eyes. :)

Yesterday as my daughter Ali and I were leaving the Mission, I saw many of my "friends" on the streets as we were driving away. I saw Katie a few blocks away, who I haven't seen for weeks at the Mission. I said outloud to Ali, "There's Katie! She hasn't been at the Mission for weeks. I have missed not seeing her at the front of the lunch line each day. I wonder what's going on with her." My heart became sad. Here Katie was, walking the streets in her long flowing skirt, probably still determined to make it on her hopeful housekeeping income. Maybe she found a job, which would be a blessing. Where does she live? What is her environment like, besides the streets? What does she have to deal with every day? Does she know Jesus? Will she come back to the Mission? And Ali and I are driving home to our nice, safe home, for a nice hot meal, with our wonderful family. What was Katie going to eat for dinner last night, and where is her home (if she has one)? God, please help Katie.

We can no longer drive downtown without seeing these friends of mine. We can no longer drive by the homeless, the needy, the least, the last and the lost, and turn our heads. We can no longer see people "dumpster dive" without having pangs of compassion in our hearts. These people whom I used to be able to "ignore" are God's children too, just as I am. And He loves them, just as much as He loves me. I would want someone to glance at me, to help me, to love me if I was in their shoes, wouldn't you? I pray God does a work in your heart that at some point, you won't be able to drive

past these loved ones of His any longer without feeling those pangs of compassion. I pray that you'll act on that compassion, and do what you can to love these children of God...the least, the last and the lost.

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1