

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2010

Mission Tuesday #73

God is changing lives at Mission of Hope! I see it almost every day I'm there.



This morning as I sit here at my laptop, drinking my coffee, enjoying the comfort of my home, I am thinking about some of those lives...and how many of them don't have a laptop, aren't able to drink coffee until the Mission opens, and many don't have a home. These kinds of thoughts humble me and draw my heart even more towards these dear people.

My mind is filled with faces today. Once the Mission of Hope "gets inside of you," which I've heard it termed that way many times, you won't think of "The Mission" when you think of Mission of Hope...you'll think of the people. That is the case with me today.

Bryan has been in my thoughts almost constantly since yesterday. He is in my prayers. He used to come to the Mission often, and even to church, if I remember correctly. He is a semi-truck driver, and used to drive all over the country. He reappeared at Mission of Hope a couple weeks ago, looking in bad shape. He shared with us that he was driving his semi in Oregon, and his girlfriend was with him. His lost his "jake brake" (not sure exactly what that is, but it's something to do with a semi's braking system), and lost control of his semi, ending up going over a cliff. His girlfriend died in this accident. He was in the hospital for weeks, and made it back to town somehow. He lost all of his possessions, as they were in his truck, and needed some emergency clothing, so he came back to Mission of Hope.

He stopped in again yesterday, and had me read the newspaper article about his accident. My heart again went out to him after reading the article and seeing tears in his eyes. He's dealing with so much...losing his means of income, grieving the loss of his

girlfriend, losing his belongings, etc. Does he even have a place to live right now? I tried to encourage him, "God's not done with you Bryan. You shouldn't be here after that accident, but you are. He's got a plan for you. God's with you." He gave me a half grin, and moved to head towards the door. As he walked out the front door, I thought to myself, "What he is dealing with is more than what most people deal with in life. I can't imagine going through what's he's going through. Lord, meet him right where he's at today."

I am also thinking of John. I met him just a few weeks ago. I can't remember who, but another patron introduced me to him. At that time of meeting him, he said he would be willing to help with odd things around the Mission to help out. I had never seen him help out prior to that day. Since then, I've seen him help in a variety of ways. At lunchtime yesterday, I was standing at my normal post by the drinking fountain, and in the corner of my eye, I saw John coming towards me. He came and stood beside me, and we were able to have a few minute conversation, which I enjoyed immensely. We talked about the Mission and how long he had been coming in. We talked about church, alcoholics anonymous, addictions, and God. It was a wonderful conversation, and I feel that God allowed us to have a few minutes to find out a little more about each other. I have to say, that interaction with him really made my day.

I will be taking some time off this next week, and I can say from my heart, that I'm going to miss my friends at Mission of Hope. I'm going to miss Bryan, John, and everyone else. I'm going to miss watching God work in the lives and hearts of men, women and children there. I will be with them in prayer though.

Today I thank God for what He's done in my heart for the least, the last and the lost. I am honored to call them my friends.