

## Mission Tuesday #122



It's amazing what a vacation can do for a person! In coming back to Mission of Hope this week after my vacation last week, I have a renewed energy! My passion is back for what God has called me to do at the Mission. And yesterday was a day unlike any I think I've ever experienced there. I really felt like all day yesterday, I was doing what I was created to do! God filled my heart with such joy, peace and satisfaction as He used me to encourage others, love others, and pour myself into others' lives!

As usual, the day flew by. From the moment I walked in the door in the morning, I felt God's presence with me and with us as a staff. Joy filled the building. It was pretty incredible! We had a group of kids come in to help from a local agency, and their presence added to the joy. They helped upstairs in our Clothes Closet, they served lunch that was brought in by a couple who are wonderful friends of ours, and they helped clean up a little afterwards. I think they had a good day at the Mission!

We had some other wonderful volunteers come in yesterday too. (We were closed today for our staff retreat...the first Thursday of each month.) I really don't know what we would do without our volunteers each day of the week. Some come in for a couple hours a week, some come in for a day a week, some come in a few days a week. Each one is a big help! (We could still use more volunteers on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays though! Hint, hint!) :) A friend of mine from Bible Study Fellowship called me in the morning and asked if we could use her help for a few hours. It was a gift to be able to work alongside of her yesterday, and to have a great conversation with her before she left. I can't help but think today of the wonderful smiles I saw on a couple of volunteers faces yesterday, including my friend's, as they served God and served the people He loves!

We had a wonderful Wednesday noon Bible study! God is teaching us and growing all of us so much! It's fun to be able to learn right along with our Mission friends! Even though we may be in different places in our walk with the Lord, we are still on the same narrow path leading to Him! I was blessed hearing the discussion of what we were studying in 1 Corinthians 8 & 9...and what each one was learning from it. It also blessed me to have one of our friends join us for the first time who lost his wife of many, many years in a farming accident a few weeks ago. He and his wife came faithfully to our Worship Services each week, and now he comes on his own. How difficult it must be for him to go on without her by his side. I think he found encouragement in God's Word by attending our Bible study.

A couple who are friends of ours at the Mission needed someone to talk to yesterday, and they waited around until after the study to talk to me. My heart goes out to them. They live

differently than I do. They look at things differently than I do. I don't agree with some of the choices they've made in the past. But really, none of that matters. God loves them just as much as He loves me. They find hope in being at Mission of Hope. They find encouragement. They come to our Wednesday night Bible study. They come to our Worship Services. I see they are desiring to learn more of who God is, and what His plan for their lives might be. God continues to draw them back to Him. It's a blessing for me to see...and a reminder that Jesus never gave up on anyone, and still doesn't. So we at Mission of Hope don't either.

Kimie, one of our staff members, compiles our Mission statistics each month. She emailed them to me today. I was not surprised by the numbers I saw...we continue to serve more and more people!

**In the month of June:**

**We served a total of 2,292 noon lunches (*up 178 from last month*).**

**We served a total of 575 households in our Food Pantry (*up 53 from last month*).**

**Out of the 575 households we served a total of 1,554 people (*up 143 from last month*) with 1,031 being adults and 523 being children.**

**We helped 124 people with clothing from our Clothes Closet (*up 30 from last month*) with 431 items (*up 135 from last month*).**

Wow! Those numbers are pretty amazing, isn't it? God continues to reach out to more and more people through Mission of Hope...and He continues to provide just what we need when we need it to help the people who come in our doors. On that subject, would you consider helping us? Mission of Hope is able to keep its doors open because of donations...monetary, food, etc. Our Food Pantry is currently completely out of soups, canned meat and almost out of all pasta sauce, pasta, rice, and beans. Our needs continue to increase with more people we help, and the last few months have been pretty lean for us monetarily, as donations have been down. If you haven't already, I encourage you to go to Mission of Hope's website (<http://www.missionofhopecr.org/>) and read the Summer 2011 Letter to Friends from our Executive Director, Tina Furman Herring. Thank you for considering helping Mission of Hope!

It's good to be back with my Mission friends this week. I missed them. I'm grateful for them, and I'm thankful I get to be a part of their lives! To God be the glory!