

## Mission Tuesday #118



There are so many wonderful things going on at Mission of Hope these days...little things, big things, life-changing things. Experiencing what we get to each day and each week is a gift from God that we as staff members are so very thankful to receive.

We have our moments where we struggle as staff. It's not always a perfect day. :) Take for example Tuesday. The temperature outside rose to over 95 degrees. There are certain things we do to help it stay cooler in the Mission during the summer, but we were a little caught off guard with that this week. When I walked in Tuesday morning at 8:15 (we are closed Mondays), the part of the building that has air conditioning was 82 degrees. I immediately turned the air on. It only dropped two degrees the whole day, and didn't get below 80. The majority of the building we occupy is not air conditioned. We have a window air conditioner in the kitchen which helps, and a big fan in the kitchen which helps too. We have standing fans running throughout the front part of the building (the non-air conditioned part) to help as well.

Within the first hour of the day I had sweat trickling down my temples...and it only got worse from there. I won't go into all the details, but we as staff looked pretty pathetic the rest of the day (and I'm sure we didn't smell that great either). That's not to mention how we felt. The heat totally wiped out each of us. We were totally spent by the time 4pm came around. The only things we could do to keep us going were to pray for God's strength and patience, and to encourage each other.

I was pretty unhappy when I arrived at home that late-afternoon. Thank goodness I have a very understanding and loving husband! :) I was encouraged by Bill's words. Someday we will have our own building, where we have heat in the winter and air in the summer throughout the WHOLE building...not just part of it. Since Mission of Hope rents the building we are in now, we try to make the best of what we have. Next time we'll be more prepared for a 95 degree day. Thankfully, we as staff members can laugh about Tuesday now, and I'm so glad no one took pictures of us! :)

Wednesday's noon Bible study was another wonderful study. There were ten of us around the two tables. We represented a wide range of life experiences...everything from a pastor, and a business owner to a disabled veteran, and someone who has relapsed in his addiction. We discussed 1 Corinthians 5 in that hour, and I watched how God seemed to encourage each one of us through each other...especially the friend of ours who had relapsed. He was loved on, encouraged, & reminded how God loves Him and has a way out for him in his addiction, and was made aware that we were all there for him to help him walk this out. I have to say, our Wednesday noon studies are a highlight of my week. I invite you to come in and soak up what I get to each Wednesday at noon! I think you'll be just as amazed as I am!

And one more short story...two local pastors came into the Mission on Wednesday. One came in the morning to spend some time with us. He pastors a church in my hometown, and I hadn't met him before. The other stopped by in the afternoon to bring some men's clothing into our Emergency Clothes Closet. He pastors a church five minutes away from where I live and my children used to attend their Vacation Bible School each summer when they were of ages to do so. Both of them had never been to Mission of Hope before. In sharing with each of them what we do at Mission of Hope, I was reminded that Mission of Hope isn't just a city-bound mission...it reaches beyond its city borders into other communities. I believe both of these pastors have a new understanding of what God is doing at and through Mission of Hope. I was encouraged with what they had to say, and with how they also have a heart for the hurting. We would love to have them and their churches involved in Mission of Hope in some way. We partner with many, many different churches and organizations throughout the area, and God continues to bring more!

What a great week it was at Mission of Hope!

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21*