

Mission Tuesdays #69 & 70

**"Here is a test to find
whether your mission
on earth is finished:
If you are alive, it isn't."
~Richard Bach**

It's been a couple of weeks since I last wrote about my time at Mission of Hope. I have gone from originally being there just on Tuesdays, to working Tuesdays and Thursdays, and now being at the Mission each day Tuesday through Friday. If someone would have told me a year ago that I would be working almost full time at Mission of Hope now, I certainly would have thought they were crazy. But I can't imagine doing anything else at this point in my life. I am living proof that God is still at work in changing hearts.

I'm recalling some of the moments of the last couple of weeks that stand out in my mind at Mission of Hope...

...one of my friends at the Mission, who God puts on my heart daily, has had some exciting changes in his life. He has gone from homelessness and being unemployed, to now being the resident assistant at the Mission of Hope Shelter. I am amazed and how God is changing his heart. He is such a great help at the Mission. I've seen in just the last few weeks how he feels good about having a purpose and a calling, and how helping others gives him joy. You can see it in his face. :)

...a younger woman, who has struggled with a substance addiction in the past, gave birth to a baby girl about five months ago. She's had a few court dates, trying to have her parents legally adopt her baby, as she is unable to keep her on her own. She brought her beautiful girl in to the Mission last week for me to see her. I heard her tell someone else at lunch about her baby, "I couldn't wait for Julie to see her." That warmed my heart.

...I have been touched by the volunteers who give of their time at the Mission. On days when we are short of help, I find that even though the work may seem like a lot to do, they keep a good attitude and are willing to pitch in where needed. Some are so faithful, and even come every day. Those that come even a few hours a week make such a difference. I am so thankful for our volunteers.

...an older gentleman has been waiting patiently to get a copy of his birth certificate. Phyllis has been helping him with this, in order to be able to get himself housing. He shared with me this week that last winter the police found him under a bridge almost dead...at 77 years old, living on the streets is becoming too hard. We took him to the facility this week that had his paperwork to sign in order to get a copy of his birth certificate. In four weeks his birth certificate should arrive, and we will then be able to help him find housing. I look forward to that day. You can see he has hope in his eyes again.

...I can see that some who I don't know very well are beginning to allow me to become "closer" to them. They have little by little, opened up portions of their lives and stories to me. They are beginning to trust me. I find no greater privilege than that...to be allowed to be a part of peoples' lives in this way. When one brings in his "significant other" in to the Mission to meet you, that's a gift and a privilege. I'm thankful God is opening up people's hearts to me, and mine to them. :)

...people just want to feel cared for and loved. I have witnessed that the most these last few weeks. Many don't feel loved and cared for anywhere else in their lives. Actually, all of us want that, don't we? If we desire that, imagine how much more someone who never feels cared for and loved, desires that.

Someone needs you. God has someone ready for you to love and care for...and be prepared...he or she might be the least likely person you'd think of. And what a gift He will give you in return...true joy of helping and loving another.