

Dan – 'Invaluable community resource filled with people who actually care. Spiritually grounded. Don't stuff religion down people's throats. I was on the verge of being homeless all summer, but I didn't have to be alone in that because I could come here. I'd like to see it open longer and hours extended. If just one person received help and their life was changed through this place, then that's a good enough reason for Mission of Hope to exist.'

Ron – 'It's everything. Gives us opportunity to do good, positive things. I can relate to people here unlike anywhere else. I would probably be a repeat offender without the Mission.'

Ray – 'The first time I came here, I needed a bag of food. I told Tina I needed furniture because I was moving into my new place. She and her husband Mike helped me with furniture that was in their garage. If Mission of Hope can do that for me, I wanted to come volunteer and help. If Mission of Hope didn't exist, I'd be spending time doing things I shouldn't be doing.'

John – 'It helps people get off the streets and gives us a place to stay. Helps get life back on track to where it's needed to be.'

Wow...can you see that God is doing more than just providing a hot lunch to the people of this community? Can you see that lives are being changed, transformed and enriched through Mission of Hope? Can you see how many rely on Mission of Hope to help them, encourage them, and to love them? God is doing a mighty, mighty work!

Did you catch that most of the comments from those who benefit from this ministry aren't about the tangible things Mission of Hope provides...it's the intangible things...safety, love, purpose, support, help, encouragement, etc."

I used Isaiah 58:7-12 (The Message translation) for the scripture passage for this message...

"God also showed me something profound as I was preparing for this message. In verse 12 of today's scripture, God showed me what really He's doing and what His plans are for Mission of Hope and the people it serves...

***vs 12 You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,
rebuild the foundations from out of your past.
You'll be known as those who can fix anything,
restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate,
make the community livable again.***

God showed me...He's using the old garbage of our past lives to build new lives.

He's building the Mission on the foundation of Pastor Barb's past, and also rebuilding lives from the solid foundations of each person's past.

Mission of Hope will be known as a place where lives can be fixed and helped.

Lives are being rebuilt and renovated here.

And Mission of Hope is being used by God to help make the community livable again.

Isn't that awesome?!"

Some examples of what God is doing:

"In August alone, we served a hot meal at lunchtime on sixteen days. With those lunches, 2,051 people were served!

In our Food Pantry in August, 559 households were helped with a bag of groceries—994 adults and 526 children equating to 1,520 total people. A new record!!

We helped 103 people with clothing from our emergency clothes closet.

I found this also to be interesting and disheartening...at the Mission of Hope Shelter in August, we had to turn 129 men away because of our shelter being full, 36 female and 10 families. This shows me how our Shelter is a much-needed facility in this community and we could surely use more space because we continue to be at full capacity most of the time!"

So...I ask you...Will you join us? Will you partner with us? Will you step out in faith and be a part of what God is doing at Mission of Hope? Will you give of yourself, your time, your talents or your treasure to be used by God here? I encourage each one of you to get actively involved. I encourage you to come down and visit us here during the week, and see for yourself what God is up to. You can be my or Tom's shadow for the time you're here...you won't be left on your own. And if you're already plugged in some way to Mission of Hope, will you share with us in what Mission of Hope means to you? And will you commit to stay involved during this time of transition?

We need you. The people need you. God loves an obedient heart...may He find yours and mine full of obedience! And as you step out, remember God's words of blessing...

***If you are generous with the hungry
and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,
Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness,
your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.
I will always show you where to go.
I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—
firm muscles, strong bones.
You'll be like a well-watered garden,
a gurgling spring that never runs dry.
(Isaiah 58:9-11)***