

Mission Tuesday #104



On the first Thursday of each month Mission of Hope is closed for a staff retreat. This retreat has been very key and necessary as Mission of Hope's leadership team has been working and growing together through this time of transition. Today was no different, except that today's retreat was an all staff retreat, and we all met at Mission of Hope's Shelter.

The five hours we spent together were priceless today. Pastor Barb shared the vision God gave her over thirteen years ago, with her original poster boards and how God revealed this big vision to her. The first sermon she gave regarding this vision was eleven years ago...and I remember hearing that first sermon first-hand. It's hard to believe it was that long ago. But when I think Ali was only five then, and now she's sixteen, it puts it in perspective for me.

Mission of Hope is not some fly-by-night operation. It wasn't thought up by man. It was God's idea, and was given to Pastor Barb to make it a reality in our community. Listening to her words today, and feeling her passion come through her words, confirmed for me once again, that this plan is much bigger than any of us. It's God's plan and He'll carry it through.

In the last eleven years, Mission of Hope has not steered away from the original vision. It has stayed right on course. That's a true indication that God's in it, isn't it?! Mission of Hope has expanded its services, and as we grow, the services we provide to help those who are considered the least, the last and the lost will expand even more.

As Pastor Barb retires, her daughter Tina Furman Herring is accepting the baton that is passed to her from her mom...and beautifully, I might add. Tina helped us today to see again the importance of team and unity, and encouraged us to stay focused on why we do what we do at Mission of Hope. We are a Christ-centered ministry. Christ is the center, and He is our focus. We don't give up on people...Jesus never did.

Spending time with those whom God has hand-selected for this ministry, and whom I get the privilege to work alongside of, was a very special gift today. We laughed, we shed tears, we ate together, and we encouraged each other in the calling that has been placed on our lives.

I write each week about what happens at Mission of Hope, but I thought it would be good to share some of what takes place "behind the scenes" as well. Our leadership team has worked very hard at keeping Mission of Hope a place that honors God in all ways. We take time each month and each week to work through situations, problems, concerns, etc., and celebrate what God is doing through Mission of Hope and in our lives personally. We are all learning a lot through this transition. Communication and support have been very important keys in all of this. Thanks to Pastor Barb and Tina, these have stayed a priority.

As I look to the future of Mission of Hope, I'm excited about the possibilities. As we go to great lengths to seek the Lord's will for our future, and be careful not to step ahead of Him or fall behind, I can't help but see God continue to be glorified through this ministry. That thrills me! I see many, many more lives touched by God through this ministry as well...that thrills me even more!

Once again, I can't help but say how thankful I am to be a part of such a God-honoring ministry. Yes, it's hard work most days, and yes I get physically and mentally tired. But I can't imagine anything more fulfilling and rewarding as this work is. To God be the glory!