

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010

Mission Tuesday #52



Wow...a year has come and gone since I began spending some of my days during the week at Mission of Hope. It's very hard for me to believe a year has passed!

I was blessed, as I always am, being at Mission of Hope yesterday. I read something from Charles Swindoll today about certain children who grew up in a Christian home, then went astray after they were grown. They did not follow the values and morals they were taught as children, and instead, chose the wrong path as young adults. A good example of this is in 2 Kings 18-21...Hezekiah's son, Manasseh.

Mr. Swindoll stated three reasons why this turn may have happened in Manasseh...

- 1) Manasseh had a will of his own (like us all) and refused to respond to the Lord
- 2) He was over-influenced by ungodly and wicked associations
- 3) He was neglected by his preoccupied, busy father, who was then king. Manasseh saw little of his father during the formative years of his life. Hezekiah never took the time.

I began to wonder about some of Mission of Hope's patrons. How many of them grew up in a loving, Christian environment, were taught right from wrong, but possibly experienced any of the three points above which led them down a path they should have avoided...and are where they are today because of those things?

How many had a busy, preoccupied father or mother? How many got in with the wrong crowd? How many refused to listen to the Lord's calling? For those of us who are parents, this can be a wake up call for us in raising our children...are WE too busy, preoccupied? Can we help our children NOT to get in with the wrong crowd? Can we help them hear the Lord's calling?

The good news is that God still loves each of us...no matter what. It's never too late to turn around, get back on the right path, and follow Him. I'm very thankful for that! I believe Mission of Hope helps people make that turn. They see that they are accepted...that they are valued...that they are treated with respect at the Mission. They see that people care about their well-being, and care for them...with food, clothing, a smile, a meal, etc. One can't help but feel loved at Mission of Hope. I know I do each day I'm there! :) And once someone feels loved, everything can change, and God has a softened heart open to His touch.

I was blessed yesterday to have one of my BSF friends, Joyce stop by the Mission to help. She came in around lunchtime, which was a nice surprise, and stayed until the middle of the afternoon to help clean up. Bless her heart too...she took home some cookie dough to bake cookies for us for the weekend, and she took a big bag of turkey home to store in her freezer for us! What a blessing she is to me, and now to Mission of Hope too! It was so fun to spend part of the day with her!

I love Mission of Hope! :)