

## Saturday, December 4, 2010 **Mission Tuesdays #90 & #91**



Last week I was at Mission of Hope only one day, due to Thanksgiving week. My family and I traveled out of town for the holiday and the weekend. Thanksgiving seemed to take on a whole new meaning for me and my family this year. As we celebrated with a wonderful meal together on Thanksgiving day, my mind was drawn to our friends at Mission of Hope. I wondered where they were. Were they having a Thanksgiving meal? What were they doing as I was stuffing myself at Cracker Barrel? Faces of my friends came to my mind, and the interactions I had with them a couple days prior, followed. Bill seemed to know what I was thinking, as he asked about one of our Mission friends, and wondered too, what he was doing on Thanksgiving. How thankful I am that God has placed me and my family at Mission of Hope! I'm thankful for our dear friends there, and for what God is doing in their lives!

This week at Mission of Hope was extremely busy...and it was cold! More than half of the building that we rent and occupy has no heat. Our friends sit inside of this part of the building with their coats on much of the time. Tom and I wear our fleece jackets/sweatshirts all day. I forgot just how cold it gets in there, but I was reminded quickly this week with the temperature outside in the teens most days. But a cold building is nothing compared to what some of our Mission friends experience daily. I wake up most mornings, snuggled in my warm bed, in our warm home, with my loving family. After saying good morning to God, my thoughts immediately go to our friends who have spent the night sleeping outside...maybe in a box, or under a bridge, and probably alone. I pray for them, and my heart goes out to them, as I can't imagine sleeping outside when it's 10 degrees out.

Each morning people are standing out front of the Mission of Hope building, waiting for the doors to open at 9:00. Normally, Kimmie has already brewed 4-5 pots of coffee and has it ready for our friends. A variety of pastries have been put on trays. The building is as warm as it's going to get, and when the door opens, our friends flock to the coffee and pastries...even in their coats, hats and gloves. We hear "good mornings," "how are you?," and see lots of smiles. We get hugs, handshakes and high fives. This is one of my favorite parts of my day at Mission of Hope. I wish everyone could get the greetings like we get each morning!

I can't help but wonder, how can most of our friends be so happy, when some of them just spent the night outside? Or spent the night in a cold apartment or in a home with no heat? Or spent the night in conditions that my mind can't even comprehend? One woman shared with me this week how she feels about the Mission..."This place is different than what's out there (as she pointed outside). I can't wait to get here each day." Praise God that Mission of Hope is different than the outside world. And praise God that people can find safety, shelter, security, and hope at Mission of Hope!

As you go to bed in your warm home tonight, will you pray for those who are sleeping outside tonight? God already knows who they are. May each one feel His warmth tonight.