

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009

Mission Tuesday #32



My Daily Bible Verse calendar today says, "Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs. - Proverbs 10:12" I looked a little further into that scripture this afternoon, and I found The Message translation says it like this, "Hatred starts fights, but love pulls a quilt over the bickering."

Love covers over all wrongs...Love pulls a quilt over the bickering...hmmm. I think back to yesterday, and my time at Mission of Hope. I spend each Tuesday at the Mission, and it has become one of the highlights of my week! I am thinking about the people who were at the Mission yesterday. I am thinking about the atmosphere there yesterday. I am thinking about the volunteers there yesterday, and the word that keeps coming to me is LOVE!

We are called to love God and love others. Jesus said in Matthew 22:36-40, that those two are the greatest commandments! I saw love in action yesterday. I experienced a love that covers all wrongs yesterday. I experienced a love that pulls a quilt over the bickering yesterday. God's love is alive and flourishing at Mission of Hope!

Going into my day there yesterday, I knew Phyllis was going to be gone for the day. As I've mentioned before, Phyllis has a calming and peaceful way about her, and she passes that calm and peacefulness throughout the entire Mission. So, I knew it would be a different day without her there. You can see the love that the Mission patrons have for Phyllis, and when she is gone, she is greatly missed! So many people came up to me yesterday and asked, "Is Phyllis here?" After telling them she was not, and asked how I or Tom could help, many would say, "I just wanted to talk to Phyllis." :-) Phyllis loves people. Phyllis has a gift for reaching out to the hurting, the needy, and those who are

"down and out." Watching her in action puts me in humble awe. God has truly gifted her, and it's a blessing for me to be able to learn from her. It's a privilege and an honor. So, needless to say, Phyllis was missed yesterday by all of us!

Since I wasn't buried in a flurry of activity in the kitchen, because it wasn't our day to make lunch, I got to interact with people a whole lot more, and I LOVED IT! It was cold outside, so coffee was a hot commodity! I just stood at the coffee pot for awhile saying hello to those who came to get a cup. :-) I visited with a number of people, catching up on their lives since last Tuesday.

My friend who I've written about who has really opened up to me lately, twisted her ankle over the weekend and was in an air-type ankle brace. She was in much pain. My heart went out to her, as she limped around the Mission. I found myself becoming more and more troubled by her pain as the morning went on. I was relieved later in the afternoon when her doctor called her and wanted her to come to the local hospital where he was to switch her brace...one that would give her support in the area she needed. I ended up driving her to the hospital to be fitted with an e-boot after my day was done there. :-)

One man who moved away a few months ago came up to get coffee, and I was shocked to see him. He said "he wanted to come back home." It was good to see him again, and I'm prayerful he stays connected to us at the Mission.

Another man, who I hadn't seen in probably a year or longer, also came up for coffee. Bill and I used to lead a Bible study on Friday nights at the Mission years ago, and he used to attend it. He sounded like he was doing well and had his life on track. It blessed me to see him back at the Mission.

I started to realize at one point, that I have so much love for the people God has brought to the Mission! I remember hearing Phyllis saying recently something like, "When you're here, it gets inside of you, and the people become a big part of your life." How true that paraphrased statement of hers is! Many Mission patrons have made wrong

choices in their lives. Many are still. But in today's scripture on my calendar...Love covers over all wrongs. :-) I love these people who God has placed in my life!

I ate lunch with other volunteers--Kim, Michelle, Kate and Cindy. It was so enjoyable to sit down with them, converse with them, and relax for a change! :-) It was Michelle's last day at the Mission for awhile, since she was coming in to fulfill a requirement for a college class. She blessed me when she said to me, "My most fun days have been the ones that I've gotten to work with you." I will miss Michelle, and I hope she will come back sometime soon to see us!

I'm not sure how many Antioch Church served, but I know there was a lot who came in for lunch. The people from Antioch are some of the most wonderful people I've met. You can tell they have a true love for God and for people!

Do I always show that I have a true love for God and others, each and every day? Do you? What if we challenged ourselves to love God with all our hearts and with all our souls and with all our minds, and to love others as well as we love ourselves? How would our days be and look differently? How would the people around us feel? What a challenge! I say let's try it...tomorrow and the rest of the week and see what happens! :-)

Love covers over all wrongs...it certainly does! :-)