

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2010**

## **Mission Tuesday #86**

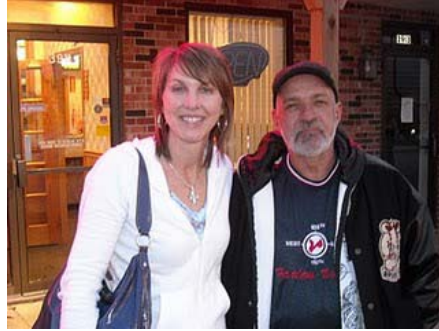
Wow...it's been 86 weeks that I've been able to experience seeing God at work at Mission of Hope! That's hard for me to believe...how quickly 86 weeks have come and gone.

God has crossed my path with some pretty amazing people, stories, situations and so many blessings...too numerous to count. It's humbling for me to even step back and recall some of them....that God would allow me to experience these things that I have at Mission of Hope. My desire is for EVERY person to experience them like I have.

And some people have...the people who have given of their time to come in and volunteer.

One of the volunteers I'm speaking about has been with Mission of Hope for years. He has been such a tremendous help and support in so many capacities. God has used his gifts and talents in lots of ways, and yet, Mission of Hope has given him a place to serve and has helped him keep his life on track. He's at Mission of Hope EVERY day. He and my husband Bill, hit it off when Bill used to work at the Mission of Hope Shelter. They've stayed in touch with each other and kept up with each other's lives...sometimes through me.

This volunteer let us know a week ago he would be moving to Missouri to help take care of a friend who had a kidney transplant. Bill and I thought it would be nice to spend some time with him before he left, so we went out to dinner with him the night before he moved. It's only been a few days that Ray has been gone from Mission of Hope, and boy do we all miss him! It's not the same there without him! What a difference a volunteer can make! And Ray certainly did make a difference in so many lives...including mine! I look forward to the day he returns!



(Ray and Tom showing off the boards they broke with their own hands at a Tae Kwon Do event that benefited Mission of Hope last month!)

Another volunteer that stands out in my mind is one who comes in every Tuesday and Wednesday. She started volunteering, I believe, in the spring. Those two days of the week run so much smoother when she's there. Karen is amazing in the kitchen, and wherever she's needed at the moment. She gives 100% the entire time she's at Mission of Hope. In fact, as I think about, she never takes a break except for lunchtime to sit down and have some lunch! She's a joy, she's got such a kind heart, and you can tell she enjoys being at Mission of Hope!

Two volunteers that I personally tend to rely on a lot are doing internships from a local college. They are in the same program and have become very valuable to all of us at Mission of Hope. They have until the first part of December to finish their hours of internship. One finished her hours this past week, but still plans to come back until her time is up. They have learned a lot from their experience there, and it has certainly been such a pleasure to work alongside of them! I don't look forward to the time they will have to leave in December!

There are so many wonderful volunteers we have the joy of working with, but I'm appealing to you who are reading this. We need more help! Would you consider coming for a couple of hours a week, a few hours, a day, or a couple of days a week? Anything will help! God will touch your heart and give you great joy in ways you can't imagine. Our current volunteers and staff are living proof of that! :)

God's blessings until next time,  
Julie