

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2009

Mission Tuesday #34



"...O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." --Isaiah 64:8

I certainly felt like a lump of clay yesterday morning when I arrived at Mission of Hope for the day! I didn't sleep well the night before, and a few things happened in the morning to begin my day on a bad note. I arrived grumpy and not in a very good mood.

I have come to realize over the last eight months at being at Mission of Hope each Tuesday, that if I'm feeling sorry for myself or if I'm in a terrible mood, the Mission is exactly where I need to be. I am forced to get out of myself and focus on others!

As soon as I walked in the door, an acquaintance and patron of the Mission asked me, "Are you ok?" I was honest with her..."No. Life stuff is getting to me today." Then I realized who I was talking to...and I was shameful of my answer to her. I thought to myself, "Hello, Julie!!! This woman is homeless and struggles with alcohol and drug addictions, and would switch lives with you in a second if she could. You don't have it so bad!" God quickly adjusted my attitude, and thankfully so!

My daily scripture calendar has the above scripture for today. We are the clay, God is the potter and we are the work of His hand. He is the one who can mold us into whom each of us were created to be. But how many times do we resist His hand? How many times do we resist Him forming us and shaping us? I see that in my own life plenty enough.

Yesterday's interactions with people at the Mission really touched me. A friend of mine joined me for most of the morning, volunteering her time before going to work in the afternoon. I had met her through my business originally, and was surprised one Sunday when I saw her in church. I enjoyed walking her through the Tuesday activities and what happens daily at Mission of Hope. I don't consider it an accident that God prompted her to come yesterday...He helped me forget about myself and helped me focus on teaching her about the Mission...and it was enjoyable for me to do so! I think she left with a lift in her step and possibly will return next Tuesday to volunteer again!

I talked to one of the volunteers who comes in just on Tuesdays, and he was sharing with me about his son-in-law who is suffering from a neurological disease. He is in constant pain and has a morphine pump in his stomach, which pumps morphine into his back a few times a day. He spends most of the day in bed. He had an appointment at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester yesterday, and would hopefully find out some encouraging news. I told the volunteer I would be praying for his son-in-law. I can't imagine being in pain most of the day, and having morphine injected into my body a few times a day!

I helped a man who came in who is in bad health and must live on the streets. He smelled terrible...I wondered how many people Jesus encountered in his travels on this earth who didn't smell the best. Would he have not helped them? No, He did help them, and the Bible is full of examples of Him doing so. This man was asking for a change of clothes...no wonder he didn't smell very well. He hadn't had a change of clothes in weeks. We had one pair of his size jeans, I gave him a t-shirt, a sweatshirt and socks. It's amazing what a change of clothes can do for a person...both physically and emotionally! That's something most of us take for granted!

God reminded me of something with this man...he was first wearing a t-shirt with the logo of a local radio station I used to help with. A few thoughts of my time there raced through my mind for a split-second. God gave a great experience there to grow me in the skills of communicating with others. God reminded me again that He uses all experiences to grow us up into the people He wants us to become...kind of like a potter, adding more clay to our lump, to mold us into something better.

That's exactly what He's doing through Mission of Hope. I see it each week...He's using Mission of Hope as an "add-in" to people's lump of clay. He works in His love, joy, peace, provision, acceptance, and kindness that are given out freely through Mission of Hope. People's lives are being touched and changed, if they choose to receive God's gifts, from just being at the Mission! I think it's truly amazing how it happens, and how He does this! The same goes for the volunteers' and staff members' lives!

The Potter is at work at Mission of Hope...I consider it to be a privilege of being a "lump of clay" there, allowing Him to mold me into who He wants me to become! I challenge you to allow God to add to your "lump" this week...to allow Him to mold you. If you are near in location to Mission of Hope, please consider stopping in to see the Potter at work for yourself, and experience the blessing of getting involved! :-)