

REAL Mission of Hope Worship Services



Happy Monday!

Tonight as I have some moments to myself, I wanted to share what I was able to experience at Mission of Hope over the weekend. Normally I'm there each workday Tuesday through Friday all day. If you've read any of my Mission Tuesday posts, you understand how I cherish my time there, and how I cherish whom I get to work with and our friends whom I get the privilege to help and just be there for. God continues to soften my heart to love these ones more and more.

Before I go on though, I want to pause a moment and explain the title of this post. A few years ago, I became very tired of the fake fronts and phoniness of people around me. I was tired of hearing, "Fake it until you make it." Really? Fake it? I wanted, desired and chose to have in my life people who are REAL. Not fake. Not deceptive. Not phony. I wanted people in my life who could be themselves with me, and not those who wear a mask and who would try to impress me. I have had to let many a relationship go because of that. And I have to say, I felt I honored God and I have a whole lot more peace in my life today in doing so.

Back to my story...It was just my daughter, Ali and I home this weekend, as Bill and Zach were away for a soccer tournament. Ali worked Saturday night, so I decided to go to the Mission's Saturday Night Worship Service. Our friend James from the Mission was getting baptized, and both Tina and I decided to go and support him and worship together. Pastor Dave Snyder gave the message, and during his message he said some words which I know to be true. I can't quote him exactly, but he said something like "Mission of Hope is real...there's no other church like it in this area." Amen, Pastor Dave. Amen! I've also heard his wife Mary Ann, who's also on our Board of Directors, say that she feels she can truly worship at Mission of Hope. It's unlike anywhere else. I wholeheartedly agree. It's definitely REAL!

I have been to a few churches in my day, and there is NONE like Mission of Hope. Mission of Hope was our family's church even before God called me to get involved there. Our family is one of the few who has been there since the very first Worship Service. I honestly cannot imagine going anywhere else to church, nor anywhere else to worship my Lord and my Savior, Jesus.

It was very special to be there for James and to support him on such a very special occasion...his baptism. James said to me afterwards, "I was thinking of you the other day. You are like a sister to me, and I'm very thankful for you." His words still ring loud and clear in my mind. And I'm very thankful for James and for God crossing our paths. James is REAL.

Sunday morning's Worship Service was just as special and just as REAL. Our "house worship

team," The Ragamuffins, which I'm a part of, led worship. This just takes me to a whole new level in my worship...it's unexplainable. Songs touch me in a whole new way up there, and even if we've sang a song many times, one can affect me differently and I usually can't finish at least one of them because of the tears that are streaming down my face, and I become choked up. This Sunday's worship was no different.

But two things that struck me the most about Sunday's Worship Service...

1) When I looked out into the congregation, I saw so many of our Mission friends. These friends of ours attend church now on a regular basis, where a year ago, they were never seen at the Mission in a Saturday night or Sunday Service. God is drawing each of them to these Worship Services, and He's changing their hearts and their lives! They probably wouldn't be as welcome in other churches because of how they look, how they may smell, how they may act, or how they may be different. This is REAL!

2) Ken Kolek, another member of our Board of Directors, gave the message on Sunday. INCREDIBLE! He delivered an inspired message, shared some of his story and his testimony of what God has done in his life, and He was able to be relatable to the congregation! Each one in attendance could have related to Ken in one way or another! I found it interesting that Ken also talked about the importance of being "transparent" and allowing people to really see who you are. Ken was definitely transparent! I'm still taken back by some of the wonderful things he shared!

Transparent and REAL...if that describes you then I want to encourage you to continue to live your life that way. If it doesn't describe you, I encourage you to make some changes, and allow yourself to be more REAL and transparent with a few people in your life. It's such a freeing way to live! And if you're wanting to experience a REAL church, with REAL worship, with REAL people...then I encourage you to come check out one of our Mission Worship Services! Each one is different. 5pm on Saturday evening and 10am on Sunday morning. More than likely, you'll see my family and me there, and we can worship our Lord together!