

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

## Mission Tuesday #82



I just have to start out this week's post by saying how very grateful I am for what I get to do each Tuesday through Friday at Mission of Hope! I heard someone say once, "If you love what you do, you'll never work another day in your life." I'd like to rephrase that..."If you do what God asks you to do, you'll have joy in obedience each day in your life."

The days at the Mission are by no means a "cake walk." They can be overwhelming most days...the needs of the people that we serve often seem bigger than what we can handle (but not bigger than what God can handle)! Talk about a walk of faith most days! My heart is touched every day from either a story I hear, a conversation I get to be a part of, a choice I see someone make, a life I get to be included in, a situation that seems impossible, a love for someone that I know may never be returned, etc.

Many days I walk out the door at the end of the day feeling totally exhausted, knowing that I have given all of myself that I could to those God placed in my path. As I begin my drive home, I often see those who we were able to serve during the day walking along streets, sitting on porches, or "hanging out" somewhere. Many are alone. Many look sad. Many don't have a decent home to go to. It gets me thinking..."I'm not alone. I get to go home to my family who loves me. I get to be hugged when I get home. I get to have a nice meal with my family at home. I have a comfortable, warm bed to crawl into tonight." I am reminded how little many have to get by with in life, and how God has blessed me and our family in many ways. That drive home helps me put things in proper perspective.

Many times when I'm making dinner after arriving home, images of the many people we serve flood my mind. I recall conversations I had during the day. I recall situations we

experienced. I recall seeing the ways God worked throughout the day. I thank Him for allowing little me to be a part of it all.

Today a woman in a wheelchair and her daughter came to get food from our Food Pantry. They have five adults in their home and nine children. I can't imagine all the food they go through. We helped them with a bag of non-perishable food items, and it felt good to be able to give them a couple extra items to hopefully add one more meal during their week.

A man came in around 3pm. He was hungry. I hadn't seen him before today. As we helped him with something to eat, he began to share with me, through tears as he talked, that he needed to find a way to pay his rent by today so he, his wife and two cats could continue to live where they were living. He didn't want to be put out on the streets. His tears broke my heart. We offered him some resources he could contact that may provide rent assistance.

Tuesday our friend J.J. came in. It did my heart good to see him. At the time, I was carrying a large box of cereal to take upstairs. When I saw him, I know he couldn't have helped but notice my joy in seeing him. He smiled. I set the box down, and hugged him. Asking him how he was holding up (after the death of Kim his girlfriend), he said, "I'm lonely." I can only imagine how lonely he is without her. We helped him with some food. I told him I was praying for him, and encouraged him to stay in close contact with all of us. I haven't seen him since. I'm praying tonight that he's ok.

Two ladies, Rose and Dottie, who we met during Tour de Hope last Saturday at the Mission came in today to help. What a wonderful surprise and blessing! I had such a wonderful conversation with them Saturday, and was so happy to see them come in today! They helped organize our Clothes Closet. I'm so thankful God is calling people who have a heart for the hurting to come alongside of us and get involved in the work He is doing! I loved their smiles today, and their willingness to come back in two weeks!

As I think about the week so far, and what our days have held at Mission of Hope, I'm excited to return again tomorrow. God has given me such a joy in doing this work! (For

those who know me well, can you believe I would ever be doing something like this?!)  
Yes, it's hard work, but it's all worth it. As I heard a volunteer say yesterday about the  
Mission, "This is really a neat place!" I couldn't agree more.

Amen, Sister. Amen!