

MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

## Mission Tuesday #60



I noticed an underlying tone of sadness at Mission of Hope last week, as people were beginning to find out that Phyllis will be leaving us in the near future. It was a difficult week, I think, for everyone there...the patrons, the volunteers, the staff and for Phyllis. You can see it in her eyes, you can hear it in her words, you can tell it in her actions...that Phyllis truly loves the people at Mission of Hope and she is going to miss them greatly when she and her family moves. And you can see the same in the people there...they are going to miss her so much! So many of the patrons have experienced so much loss in their lives already, and with Phyllis leaving, it could feel like another loss to them. I think it was extremely smart for Phyllis and her husband, Tom, to break the news to everyone early, so it would give all of us time to process it and try to prepare for their departure.

I was at the Mission both Tuesday and Thursday last week, but I'm going to write more about Thursday in this post. It was a normal, busy morning at the Mission...Ormal brought the normal deliveries from the local grocery store...pastries, bread, fruit, etc. The Food Pantry was busy. People were enjoying their pastries, mixed fresh fruit and coffee at the tables throughout the front of the building. Lots of different conversations were going on at each of the tables. Kimmie and I baked some "breakfast cookies" which were in the freezer...filled with oatmeal, oat bran, cinnamon and maybe some honey. They were tasty and seemed healthy!

While we were baking, I had the opportunity to get to know one of the newer volunteers a little bit better. He is from the southern part of the U.S., and is staying at the Mission's Shelter right now. I consider it a blessing when anyone opens up to me, and shares a little about his/her life, especially when he/she might not know me that well. I was able

to encourage him a little in the time we had together in the kitchen.

Amongst all the busyness, I also got to witness God at work. I know...some people would say these things are just coincidences, but not me. I know God was behind them. We received a phone call Thursday morning from a wonderful woman volunteering to make the meal on Sunday after our Worship Service. (We serve a meal the first Sunday of every month.) To back up a little, Tina was notified on Tuesday that the group who originally signed up to make and serve Sunday's meal, wasn't going to be able to do it now. Having only a few days to come up with a "plan B," she had put a call out for help on Facebook right away, and began praying that God would bring someone to do the meal. That call was answered on Thursday! I have to say it was pretty cool to see that happen and be a part of what God was doing.

The other neat thing that happened...I was on the phone with Tina, figuring out the meal situation, and an unfamiliar man came up to me and politely waited until I was finished with my phone call. He introduced himself, and asked if there was something he could do at the Mission to take up some of his time, and give him a way to get involved. After talking with him some more, he had found out about Mission of Hope from one of our volunteers...probably a year and a half ago. He had always wanted to come down, but never did...until Thursday. He hadn't been to church in about that long also. I gave him a small tour, and he seemed to be interested in helping at the Food Pantry...which is perfect because Tori, who helps in the Food Pantry daily, would be leaving on Friday...that was going to be her last day with us. (If that's not God, bringing someone in to help just when we need him, then I don't know what is!) I introduced him to Phyllis and some of the volunteers. By the time we were done, he seemed excited, wrote our hours down, and said he would be back on Tuesday! How perfect! I can't wait to see what God is going to do next! :)

I can't say enough how much of a blessing it is for me to be at Mission of Hope each week. I love to see God working. It's such a joy and a privilege for me. I love the people. I love to hear their stories and to learn about their lives. I love working alongside of the people that God has hand-selected. I get to learn so much about life, about people and about loving others in a greater way than I ever thought possible. I am

so very thankful for Mission of Hope, and I thank God for allowing me to be a part of it all!