

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009

Mission Tuesday #9



I arrived to Mission of Hope around 9:30 yesterday morning. I certainly look forward to my "Mission Tuesdays" each week. I find it simply amazing how God has changed my heart in a matter of weeks from once feeling, *"I have way too much to do to be able volunteer at the Mission"* to now feeling, *"I look forward to being at the Mission this week!"* Only God can transform a heart in that way and that quickly! :-)

As I entered the building, I said my normal "hellos" and "good mornings" to the patrons already enjoying their coffee and pastries. Sarah, a daughter of a good friend of mine in Mary Kay, is doing something similar to an internship at the Mission. I hadn't seen her since she was probably middle school-age, so I reintroduced myself to her after greeting Phyllis and Steve. Sarah was already busy helping people in the Food Pantry. Yesterday was her second day at the Mission, and she already had the process down!

Sarah and I worked together most of the day...what a wonderful blessing Sarah is...and was to the Mission yesterday! It was so enjoyable for me to get to work alongside of her, and to get to know her better! She has a wonderful heart for God and has a passion to serve Him! We had fun while we worked too. :-) We organized the cooler (a big restaurant-type refrigerator), made sure the coffee put stayed full, kept the pastry tray full, and put away the pre-made sandwiches that came in. We kept the kitchen clean and ready to go for when lunch arrived.

One of the local churches provided lunch yesterday. Two of the women that come serve lunch with this church group are two that I'm in BSF with, so it's always fun to see them



and serve along side of them. They served tater tot casserole, bread with butter, pineapple, white cake with chocolate frosting and raspberry tea. They brought enough to serve around 80 people. It didn't take us long to realize we were going to run out of food! The line of people waiting to get lunch seemed to grow and grow! Scrambling became the scene...Phyllis thought of some hot dog rolls we had in the freezer which Steve began to thaw in the microwave. I grabbed more bread from the Pantry, Scott went downstairs to get another big can of pineapple, and I cut a few pies we had on hand. I thought it was a pretty good last-minute substitution meal! We ended up serving 129 people!!!

After the lunch rush, Phyllis, Steve, Scott, Sarah and I sat down and ate our meals. Sarah and I cleaned up the kitchen, helped a couple patrons in the Clothes Closet with clothes, continued to keep the coffee pot full, and began to restock the Food Pantry after our lunch. I couldn't believe it when I walked into the Food Pantry...all the food that was brought in last week was gone! We restocked the vegetables, a few meat items, and very little canned fruit was available for us to restock.

WE NEED MORE CANNED GOODS!!

Seeing those shelves, with very little on them, when they were full the week before, really made me realize how many people are being helped through Mission of Hope's Food Pantry! I was able to get some statistics from Tina on the Food Pantry for March:

of households helped in March...526

of total people helped in March...1,336

adults...938

children...398

With these figures...an average of **132 people come to our Food Pantry each week**, and an average of **26 people come per day!!!** It feels good to know so many people are being helped through this ministry...and the Food Pantry is just a part of it all!

I began to gather my things to leave around 2pm, and I suddenly had that sick feeling when I couldn't find my car keys...yes, ol' swifty here locked them in my car! Ugh! I was so upset at myself! I called Bill, woke him out of a dead sleep (he worked the night before) with my sweetest voice, telling him what I did, apologizing for waking him up, and asking him if he could come rescue me. I was able to visit with some patrons until he arrived, which I enjoyed.

When Bill pulled up, I took him a small bag of Munchies as a small thank you that he could enjoy on his drive back home. :-) I appreciated that he never once made me feel bad for locking my keys in my car...I felt bad enough, especially for calling him, waking him and having him drive 30 minutes to come help me! I went on to school and he went back home to catch some more ZZZZs.

It was a great day (except for locking my keys in my car)!! :-) I have a few more stories from my day that I'll share in a part two tomorrow. I don't want this post to be way too long! Again, I am thankful for Mission of Hope! God is doing a mighty work there, and I'm thankful to be a part of it!