

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009

Mission Tuesday #22



I went to Mission of Hope on my own yesterday...Bill is on vacation this week, so Ali and Zach stayed back with him to help his mom freeze sweet corn. It was a little strange being on my own without them! We certainly could have used their help! :-)

When I arrived, the Mission was already bustling with people. The weekly deliveries from the grocery store, the food service company and other deliveries were already arriving. Food seemed to be everywhere! Since the Food Pantry was extremely low in food supply, that was a much welcomed sight!

I made my way to the kitchen. Scott was already working away. I could see right away that it was our day to make lunch. I realize now that once I stepped foot in the kitchen, I didn't leave it except for restroom breaks and to eat lunch! I began helping him with making cheese bread. We had loaves of French bread cut in slices; we put sauce on top (oven faced) and sprinkled them with mozzarella cheese. We baked them on cookie sheets, then put them in containers to keep them warm. I didn't keep track of time, but we probably made cheese bread for at least two hours! :-) Noodles were already cooked and in roasters, and John, a volunteer I hadn't met until yesterday, was bringing in the meat sauce for the noodles to make goulash. He arrived probably around 10:30.

In the meantime, we cooked a big pan of mixed vegetables. As lunchtime approached, I realized that the veggies were no where near done. I had to resort in using the microwave to speed up the cooking process. Thankfully, the vegetables did get done in time by doing it that way...and they were actually very tasty! :-) We ended up serving goulash, cheese bread, mixed vegetables, tapioca pudding and a variety of desserts. We

served around 100 people. For someone who's not very confident in the kitchen, I'm learning how to make food for hundreds of people! :-) I guess God is stretching me...now cooking for four at home seems like a breeze! :-)

After lunch our task was to clean up. Another volunteer, Julie, and I did the dishes, washed down the counters and made the kitchen look presentable again. John was there helping too. Julie shared with me that earlier in the morning she was at a garden center about a half hour away, and felt a nudging that she needed to go to Mission of Hope that morning. She felt God was the one nudging her. So she came to the Mission! And I am so very glad she did! If she wouldn't have been there, John and I would have been the only ones there to clean up which would have taken hours! I was very thankful for her obedience to God's nudging, and I made sure I told her that! :-)

It was an extremely busy day...probably the busiest yet for me. It's very evident to me that Mission of Hope and what we provide is vital to the people we serve. I'm sure they can't imagine life without the help of Mission of Hope. It was very warm yesterday...we aren't used to warm temperatures lately. Many enjoyed coming in to sit down and get out of the heat for awhile. Something as simple as that can make all the difference for someone!

We had a Mission of Hope Board Meeting tonight and some interesting statistics were shared ... We served a total of **2,280 meals** the month of July, Tuesday through Friday. In the Food Pantry, **548 households** were helped with food in July, that's 100 more than in May. We served a total of **1,818 people** in July in the Food Pantry - **1,283 adults** and **535 children**. Our highest month ever! During the last week of July, in just two of those days we served **110 households!** Can you see why we are going through food so fast? These numbers are amazing! People need Mission of Hope!

God is certainly using Mission of Hope to help others. It's a privilege to be a part of His work in this way. Would you consider helping in some way? Donate non-perishable food items, volunteer your time, help contribute to a meal, donate money, etc? All is much needed at the Mission! It would be great to work alongside you in doing God's work! :-)