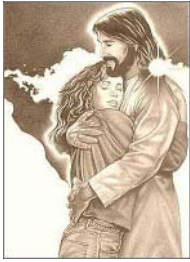


Mission Tuesday #41



Whew! Today was probably the busiest day I have ever had a Mission of Hope! The five and a half hours that I was there truly felt like two, at the most! It was a good day, though, and I enjoyed being there.

When I walked into the Mission, Tom had already been there and had gotten today's lunch started in roasters. Thankfully! I soon realized after talking with Phyllis, that Laurel and I were the only ones there to help in the kitchen, and Laurel needed to leave at 11am! I didn't know how lunch would come together, but I knew it had to! :-)

The kitchen was chaotic at one point...deliveries coming in with totes and boxes filling the kitchen floor, Laurel and I trying to get lunch going, working around the totes, making sure the coffee pot wasn't running low, filling the cooler with the deliveries that were in the totes, etc.

Amongst the chaos, I noticed an unfamiliar face standing at the kitchen counter, and I asked if I could help him. I was so busy, I felt I really couldn't help him at that point (wrong attitude on my part!). He asked to see someone about volunteering. I directed him to Tom. A few minutes later, Tom brought this man back to me in the kitchen. He introduced himself...his name was Chris and was from a local church and came to volunteer. I asked if he would be willing to work in the kitchen, and he said he was willing to anything. So, Laurel, Chris and I worked at making the kitchen look like a kitchen again, and focused on finishing lunch.

He began to make stuffing (dressing) to go with the turkey for lunch. He helped do dishes and put them away. He helped do anything we needed him to do. I apologized to him that his first experience at volunteering at the Mission would be on a day that was

very busy, but he would certainly get to see what we did, and he certainly wouldn't get bored! :-)

Laurel left at 11am, and Chris and I worked to get lunch set up and be ready to be served at noon. Chris said he had wanted to come down to volunteer at the Mission a couple of months ago, but hadn't. He heard Pastor Barb share about the Mission at his church last month and was prompted again to come volunteer. He decided this morning that he would come to the Mission today...and I am so very thankful he did, because there was no way I could have done all of that on my own! WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS! :-)

As I was in the kitchen, I think God prompted different people to come in and give me a hug...I received more hugs today than I ever have there! I needed that encouragement today! A couple I talked to had a very rough night last night, and was forced to find a different place to live. I care about this couple very much. As I was listening to them, and trying to encourage them, I was blessed when the husband said something to me like, "You do so much here. Thank you. You are such a great person, and so is your husband. You mean a lot to us." I told them I loved them and gave them each a hug before they left the kitchen area. I was completely blessed by his encouraging words.

Each time I'm at Mission of Hope, God blesses me...and it's usually in a different way each time. Today it was the peace He gave me, even among the chaos. It was the hugs and encouragement I received, just when I needed it most. It was the smiles of the people as they went through the lunch line as I put turkey on their plate. It was seeing Jamie again, who I hadn't seen in a couple weeks. It was knowing that God had me right where He wanted me today.

There was so much going on at Mission of Hope today. It was so incredible to be a part of it all! I left exhausted...but it was a good exhausted. Before I left Ron came up to me and said, "I bet you find after working here during the day, you sleep really good at night, don't you?" I replied back to him, "I sure do, and tonight will be one of those great sleeping nights!" :-)