

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2010

## **Mission Tuesday (actually Friday) #49**



Tuesday last week ended up being a snow day for us (school was cancelled due to the weather), so I didn't go into Mission of Hope like I normally do on Tuesdays. I spent the day Friday there instead. As always, I was blessed to be there.

I normally write about the things that happen during the day while I'm at the Mission, but today I'm going to write about some of the people I get to interact with there. The majority of these people are people I would never have met if it wasn't for Mission of Hope. Some are patrons of the Mission, some are volunteers, some are staff members...either way, I consider these people my friends, I consider them a part of my life, and I'm thankful for them.

I arrived early, got the coffee started and the pastries put out on a tray for those that would be coming in looking for something to eat right away. Marcia and Tom, two staff members arrived soon after. We talked about the day ahead of us, and we prayed together regarding that. I particularly love that part of our day...praying together regarding our work there. You know, I wouldn't know either Marcia or Tom if it wasn't for working with them at Mission of Hope. I can't imagine my life now without them and their friendship! What blessings they are to me! Marcia calms me, and Tom makes me laugh!

Tim, one of the patrons of the Mission was in earlier than normal, or so at least I thought. I've always liked Tim...he's friendly, outgoing and tells it like it is, no matter if I agree with him or not. I can always have an intelligent conversation with him. :) We've shared some of our "war stories" from the past, and even though we are in different places in our lives, we are friends. I appreciate him and am thankful God brought him to Mission of Hope.

Dan likes decaf coffee. We normally only make regular coffee. I'm not sure if it's a health issue, but he doesn't drink regular coffee. He bought a can of decaf coffee awhile ago, and we keep it in the cupboard for when he's wanting some. Friday he walked up to the kitchen area and looked like he wanted to say something to me. I spoke before he did asking him with a smile, "Need some decaf?" He asked, "Do you mind?" I said of course I didn't mind, and I made him a pot with the coffee he purchased. I poured him a cup, put the rest of the pot in a carafe, and I smiled as I took his cup out to him where he was sitting. I thought to myself..."A friendship can begin all because of decaf coffee." :)

Rena is a woman who volunteers to make lunch for the Mission about once a month. She brings her two young children with her when she does. Each time she's there, I get to know her and her family a little bit better. She had put together a goulash-type of dish, and a friend of hers brought in prepared noodles to add to the dish on Friday. Rena is a wonderful cook, and I can tell she enjoys it. I watched her on Friday, teach her children with patience, and also stay organized with her meal all at the same time. It was a wonderful lunch! Her husband came in to eat with them, and I was privileged to join them at their table. She mentioned a few times she was nervous that people might not like the dish, but hearing compliments throughout the lunchtime eased her concerns. I encouraged her with each compliment I heard. She shared with me that her son didn't like the way it smelled, and since there were vegetables mixed in it, he didn't want to eat it. On the way to the Mission in the morning, after they prayed together as a family, her son said something like, "I hope no one throws up!" How funny!! Only from the mouths of babes...! Her lunch was very tasty! :)

I guess the thing I love the most when I'm at Mission of Hope, besides how God teaches me and has changed my heart, is getting to know and interact with all sorts of people...people whom I would never have met if it wasn't for the Mission. I'm so thankful I began helping out there almost a year ago! I'm so thankful Pastor Barb asked me to come in one day a week to help out because she would be needing to take time off because of her breast cancer. I'm so thankful for each person I've met there. I look forward to who I'll get to interact with next time, and the next friend I'll get to meet! Mission of Hope...what a gift it has been to me!