

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010**

**Mission Tuesday #45**



It was another busy, but enjoyable day at Mission of Hope yesterday!

I was all over the place...the Food Pantry, the Clothes Closet, the kitchen, restocking, organizing, etc. As always, the day flew by!

Some of the highlights of my day there yesterday...

--working alongside of Kimmie, Phyllis, Tom and Heidi!

--it was great to get to know Heidi (a new volunteer last week) better...I wish she wasn't moving in three days! She has a kind, servant heart!

--I enjoyed hearing how Tori's boyfriend proposed to her Tuesday night! They are planning to get married this summer! Her ring is beautiful!

--I had an encouraging conversation with Ormal (he brings in lots of food donations on Tuesdays). He always makes me smile! If I could, I would adopt him as my father since mine is no longer on this earth. :)

--Kimmie made me laugh so many times! Especially when the large Ziploc bag of corn I was working with began to split down the sides and she just stood there looking at me, (as corn was oozing out everywhere), frozen like a deer in headlights!

--Antioch Church brought in a great lunch! Chili mac, corn, lime jello with pears, bread/butter, pudding and red Kool-Aid.

--actually sitting down to enjoy lunch with Kimmie, Heidi, Tori, Phyllis and Ron (a volunteer and friend of MOH). We had a lively conversation about marriage, keeping a marriage together, divorce, children, and I was able to hear a few of each others' stories. I was also able to share a little of the things Bill and I have worked through and have done to keep our marriage intact through our 17 years together.

--I was asked by one of the ladies who came in with Antioch Church, how many days I'm at the Mission. I told her two. I explained my history with Mission of Hope, being on the Board of Directors, but not really understanding what a day was like at the Mission until I began volunteering in February last year. I told her in these words, "I love it here." She said with a surprise, "You do?" I answered her with something like, "I sure do. I'm able to reach out and give to others here. The people here are really no different than me. One bad decision years ago could have made all the difference for me, and I could be one of the people who needs a place like Mission of Hope. I want to give people hope."

I realized, as I was talking with that woman, that I am VERY partial to Mission of Hope. I have sort-of taken "ownership" of the Mission. I found myself feeling very proud (in a good way) and beaming, as if I was talking about one of my children, as I was talking about the Mission and my passion for being there. That's the absolute truth...I love it there! I can't imagine spending my Tuesdays and Thursdays anywhere else.

I thank God for calling me to Mission of Hope all those years ago, and for opening my heart to volunteering there last February! I thank Him for giving me a place to serve Him, and a place where I can give people hope!