

Mission Tuesday #99



I was in tears at one point today at Mission of Hope...soaking in the reality of a truth that I know and had the privilege to witness...that God hears the prayers of His people and answers them!

Late yesterday afternoon as I was driving home from Mission of Hope, I was having a conversation with Tina (my best friend and Mission of Hope's Executive Director), and we were discussing the fact that our non-perishable food supply at the Mission had dwindled quickly for our Food Pantry. We were COMPLETELY OUT of all pastas and grains, pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, corn, and canned meats. I honestly had never, in all my time at Mission of Hope, seen our food supply so sparse. It was a bit alarming to me!

We decided we would make a few phone calls, and put a plea out on facebook last night.

I thought about our food need all evening after I arrived home. I talked with Bill about it, asking many times, "How are we going to get food for the Pantry tomorrow?" or "I just don't know how we are going to be able to help people in the Pantry tomorrow." I felt it on my heart to take things out of our pantry at home to help. I knew the bag of food I gathered to take in this morning wasn't going to go very far. As I closed my day in prayer last night, I asked God specifically to provide the food that would be needed to feed our patrons and their families today and into next week.

Guess what I woke up thinking about? Yep, our Food Pantry need. "Lord, I trust you to provide for Your people today." I vowed I wouldn't worry.

At our staff meeting at the Mission this morning, we prayed for God to provide the food, the resources, and the people needed to help those who would come through the Mission's doors today, including providing the much needed food for our Food Pantry, and help from priceless volunteers. We knew we were going to be very short-staffed today. We left that meeting trusting our God, and ready to see how He would provide for His people.

After opening the door at 9am, the phone began to ring, and food donors began to show up at the Mission's door. A bag or two of non-perishable foods here, a couple more there, were a big help to start our day. These generous friends read about our need on facebook! We were able to take the first handful of people through the pantry, and felt like we had a good supply to offer them. Praise God!

Only one of our faithful volunteers came today, as others called to say they couldn't come in. Before any stress began to set in me, it seemed as if one patron after another asked Kimmie or I, "Can I help you today?" or "Do you need any help?" Another Praise God!

About 11am, two Suburbans, filled with canned items from a few families from a local church pulled up...one in front of the building and one in back. Cases after cases of canned items, pastas, pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, crackers, etc. soon filled the Food Pantry area and covered a table in the back. Tears began to fill my eyes as I witnessed first-hand God's provision for His people. Overwhelmed with love for our Sovereign God, we thanked these donors again and again, sharing how this food will feed many, many people and families for days and weeks to come! Praise God again!

Lunch was served at noon, and immediately afterwards, our Mission patrons were busily putting these items where they belonged...organized in the Pantry and in our storage rooms. Praise God!

At the end of the day, we shared with each other the things we witnessed today, praised God for what He did, and even though we worked hard and felt tired, we had a different lift in our step...we knew God answered our prayers and was very present at Mission of Hope today!

PRAISE GOD!