

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2009

Mission Tuesday (Wednesday) #17

My day at Mission of Hope was Wednesday instead of Tuesday this week--due to the fact that I traveled out of town for business Monday into Tuesday. This week was a little different though...Bill was on vacation, so he and Zach joined me for the day at the Mission! :-) It brought me great joy for us three to help at the Mission together...the only thing that would have made it better was if Ali was there with us!



We arrived around 9am, after dropping Ali off at her last day of Summer School. Tom A., one of the Mission staff members, was busy in the kitchen starting lunch. He shared with us what he was making...and I suddenly wished it was lunchtime! He was making Shrimp and Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo! One of my all-time favorite meals! :-)

As usual, the Mission was bustling with people and activity. Zach walked Bill through the Food Pantry, and showed Bill what to do to help people with food. (Zach certainly knows what he's doing in the Pantry...he likes helping there!) They bagged pieces of chocolate for the Pantry which took quite awhile. I kept the pastry trays full and made a



few pots of coffee. I even enjoyed a cup myself! :-) Pizza Hut had brought in previously

baked and frozen pizzas on Tuesday, and there were a few containers full of pizza still in the cooler. I sliced the pizzas and bagged them up to be put in the freezer for the Food Pantry patrons.

The morning flew by! The aroma from the kitchen smelled more and more delicious as the morning went on...garlic, cream, chicken...my stomach was beginning to growl! I caught some of Tom's conversations with a couple of the men that were helping him in the kitchen. I was impressed! He was asking them about their lives and getting to know them better. Something so simple, yet something that made such an impact on me, and I'm sure on the two men he was conversing with! Tom is such an asset to the Mission! It was great that his wife and sons came in for lunch too! :-)

Wilma, a dear lady who attends church at the Mission on Sundays, came in and



volunteered on Wednesday for the first time. She baked three cakes over at the Mission of Hope Shelter for the Mission's lunch. When she arrived at the Mission with her cakes, the kitchen then began to smell of just-baked chocolate and yellow cakes! My stomach was BEYOND growling at this point! :-)

FINALLY it was lunch time! I helped serve the alfredo sauce and the chicken and shrimp. Steve G. put the fettuccini on each person's plate, he would hand the plate to me and I would add the sauce on top and ask, "Do you care for chicken or shrimp?" I would spoon the person's choice of meat on top of the sauce. I found it to be somewhat comical when some of the patrons weren't sure they heard me quite right...some asked, "Did you say SHRIMP?" "You have SHRIMP?" I would respond smiling with a "yes!" I wonder how many other free lunches across the nation served shrimp this week to the homeless and needy? :-) Another example of Mission of Hope giving people the BEST! Our meal finished with lettuce salad, Wilma's cakes and juice, which Zach served. We served over

120 people lunch.

I have to say, as I sat next to Wilma and across from Zach at lunch, that was the BEST fettuccini alfredo (with shrimp) I have ever eaten! I am going to have to get Tom's recipe! (I will share it with you when I do!) Wilma was enjoying it just as much as I was! :-) Bill went to pick up Ali from school, so he missed out on lunch. I didn't think quick enough to put a plate aside for Ali and Bill, as the food was gone before I had the thought to do that. :-)

We needed to leave the Mission a little earlier than normal on Wednesday due to a commitment I had later in the afternoon, but it was a great four hours there. I saw glimpses of joy come across people's face in the lunch line when they realized what a nice lunch they were receiving. I saw glimpses of hope on people's faces as they received a bag of food from the Food Pantry. (By the way, Steve G. shared with me that 175 people came through the Food Pantry last week! That is HUGE! No wonder the Pantry shelves were looking close to bare! **WE NEED MORE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS!**) I saw glimpses of God's love as the Mission staff and volunteers reached out to help those that needed it Wednesday. **IT WAS A GOOD DAY!**

I will be back on my normal Tuesday schedule next week, and I can't wait! :-)