

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009

Mission Tuesday #18



I was really looking forward to my day at Mission of Hope! The kids are at a Bible Day Camp each day this week, so I unfortunately, was on my own.

From the moment I walked in the door, I lost track of all time until it was almost lunchtime and First Methodist arrived with the lunch they prepared. The morning was so completely busy...probably the busiest morning I've ever had there! I spent a good part of the morning in the kitchen...making coffee, keeping the pastry trays full, organizing the cooler (refrigerator), helping put away food donations that came in, etc. It was amazing to see the cooler that was near empty when I arrived, be completely full before I left at the end of my day!

I was so thankful for all the donations that came in yesterday, but at one point it was almost overwhelming! :-) A good problem to have! A foodservice company brings in food each Tuesday. Pizza Hit Personal Pan Pizzas were donated again yesterday. We received milk and many non-perishable food items from another source. We receive bread and pastries from a local grocery store each Tuesday. And after lunch another van load of non-perishable food items came in! It was a blessing to spend a lot of my day organizing food! God really provided for the Mission yesterday!

As I mentioned, First Methodist Church provided lunch. It's always fun for me to meet the people in different churches that help the Mission! This was a wonderful group of

people! At one point I think we had almost 12 people in the kitchen with some of us making coffee, putting away food, etc., at the same time as this wonderful group was getting lunch organized! I'm sure it looked like Grand Central Station! :-) They made a wonderful meal! Goulash, French bread, fruit salad, lettuce salad, and homemade cookies and bars! Phyllis and I found a few minutes to quickly eat our meals in between how busy it was! :-) They served 101 people lunch!

We put the Pizza Hut Personal Pan Pizzas in separate small bags to hand out after lunch to the patrons. You should have seen many of the people's faces when they were asked if they'd like to take a pizza home, just after they had eaten lunch. It was nice to see them smile, and it made me feel great knowing that each person there yesterday not only had a nice lunch, but would also have pizza for a meal later.

I helped clean up the kitchen afterwards and before I left I was blessed to have two separate conversations with two women. One is living a lifestyle that is dangerous and illegal. When I asked her how she was doing, she said she had a "vacation at the hospital." When I asked further, she said something like, "They said I have a baby problem." I questioned her answer, asking if she was pregnant, and she said yes. She said she was "freaking out about it" but would "be fine." I tried to encourage her to take care of herself. My heart went out to her, and if this was true, to her baby. She also uses illegal drugs. I am praying God will protect her and her baby.

I had a longer conversation with a woman who I have known for many years. Her children were removed from her care years ago because of the choices she was making in her life at the time. She has found a way to contact her oldest son, and was asking me what I would do in her situation. She wants to contact him, but yet she doesn't want to get hurt. She said her and her husband have worked at "staying clean," and doesn't want a setback right now, if she tries to contact her son and it doesn't go well. I encouraged her with the progress she has made, and suggested she ask God what she should do. She's in church almost every Sunday, so I know praying for God's answer is something that's not new to her. I told her I would be praying for her too.

I left the Mission feeling both very humbled and encouraged because of what I was able to be a part of yesterday...a part of the work that God is doing at the Mission, a part of people's lives who are in need of encouragement and hope, a part of God's plan for my life, a part of serving others whom I probably would never get to know otherwise, and being able to be a part of the staff and volunteers' lives! I consider these things gifts that God has allowed me to experience at Mission of Hope! I am so thankful for all of them!

Looking forward to next Tuesday!