

Mission Tuesday #65



"God continues to provide."

That was my constant thought this week at Mission of Hope. I witnessed His provision over and over and over.

On Tuesday I almost became overwhelmed (in a good way) with His provision. Last week we planned our noon meals for this week, as there weren't any organizations or churches on the schedule to bring in or make the meal for the Mission's patrons any day this week. It would have to be up to us as staff and volunteers to make the lunches. We had each day's main course planned out, but we soon realized we would need to be flexible with that, due to our donations that were coming in.

When I arrived Tuesday morning, after picking up Personal Pan pizzas from Pizza Hut, our cooler (big refrigerator) was almost empty. By 10:30, it was packed full of donations! I wish I would have gotten a "before" and "after" picture! We couldn't fit one more thing in it! We received our normal Tuesday donations from the local grocery store and the local vending company. But we also received donations from people who had graduation parties over the weekend who overestimated on their food and had leftovers... lots of graduation cakes, barbecued pork, roast beef, Chinese food, potato salads, fruit, etc.

We had planned on having the pizzas for lunch, trusting that we would have enough to serve. Pizza Hut gave us 115 pizzas that morning! We added 15 more from what was in our freezer, and began baking them in our regular-sized oven at 9:15. Keeping them warm in roasters, catering boxes and taking some over to bake in the Shelter's oven, we were able to get them all baked and kept hot in time for lunch! And what a treat the pizzas were to the people! We also served the graduation cakes, and fresh fruit that was

donated just that morning, and added tortilla chips with queso dip and green beans that we had on hand...but were still from donations! We fed 123 people! God provided what we needed...and not only for Tuesday's meal, but for the rest of the week as well!

We served the Chinese food Wednesday with the apple crisp that Liz (one of our wonderful volunteers who bakes treats for the Mission's patrons) brought in on Tuesday. We added in the potato salads and rolls that were donated on Tuesday. 137 people came for lunch Wednesday!

We were closed yesterday, for a staff retreat day, and today we are serving chili dogs (again from donations) with corn bread that Liz made and brought in on Tuesday, and I'm sure fruit and/or veggies will be added in too (from donations)! (I'm not at the Mission today, but I will hear about what God did later, I'm sure!)

And this is just one example--the lunches--in how God continues to provide what Mission of Hope needs, right before the time we need it! God is teaching all of us to trust Him to give us what we need, and He ALWAYS comes through! AMAZING! :)

But we are still so low in areas of our food pantry...canned fruit, canned meat, cereal, peanut butter, oatmeal, soups. We have put out pleas to help keep the food pantry shelves stocked with these items and are again trusting God to provide. If you live locally to Mission of Hope, will you prayerfully consider donating any of these items?

This is something all of us can apply to our everyday lives...God knows what we need, even before we sometimes know and before we ask. Trust Him to provide what you need. Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

God continues to provide! All praise and glory are His! :)