

**TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2009**

## **Mission Tuesday #15**

Today was another **AMAZING** day at Mission of Hope! I am in complete **AWE** this evening of how God has transformed my attitude in just a matter of fifteen weeks about volunteering a day out of my week at Mission of Hope! My attitude has gone from "*I HAVE to go to the Mission today*" to "*I GET to go to the Mission today!*" :-) God is transforming my heart from serving Him and others there!

Zach (our 12 year old) and I arrived at the Mission at 9am



(Ali had summer school this morning). We put our things away and like every week, we got busy! We started in the Food Pantry. Ormal brought in the weekly bread delivery...four or five big totes full of bread and pastries, so we filled the empty bread shelves to overflowing with the bread, rolls and buns! What a great feeling it was to see the empty shelves filled full in just a matter of minutes! Other volunteers kept bringing us boxes of canned goods to restock the shelves. It was fun to see Zach "**in his element**" there...he knew where most of the food items needed to be--just from working in there for the first time last Tuesday! He even made sure all the labels were facing forward, and that the cans were looking organized. :-)

While we restocked, a few people came in to the Mission to get some food from the Food Pantry. We helped them pick out the food items they wanted and needed...I did most of the talking at first, as Zach followed behind me. As I've mentioned before, I enjoy helping people in the Food Pantry...I get to meet them, visit with them a little, and



sometimes get to hear bits of their life stories. We met one woman, Cathy, who hadn't been to the Mission she said for almost six months. I welcomed her back and told her I was glad she came in today. I mentioned to her some of the other services that are available at the Mission. It was an enjoyable conversation! She was grateful for her bag of food and **left the Pantry with a smile. She brought a smile to my face as well! :-)** I told Zach that he could help the next person who came in for food. You should have seen his face! :-) He wanted to watch me do it a few more times.

We "floated" throughout the Mission, and filled in where we were needed. (I just realized I never made one pot of coffee today though! I usually make 10-12 pots each Tuesday, but another volunteer handled most of the kitchen today!) Zach did a few new things this morning: He filled the snack baskets in the Food Pantry from the boxes of snacks upstairs. He helped me find upstairs some diapers for a mom in need. He helped Steve G. with the pre-packaged sandwiches that came in--organizing them and putting them away in the cooler (refrigerator). **He's learning a lot--in just two weeks! :-)**



I had to take a picture of this little girl helping her mother clean the women's restroom...isn't this precious?!!

Tina and I did a short interview about Mission of Hope with Mike from Life 101.9 radio station at 11:15. Mission of Hope is their "Ministry of the Month" for the month of July! That was a fun experience for both of us...and doing it together was a wonderful blessing

for me! I'm not sure what of our interview will be used "on air," but I prayed what we said **would glorify God and what He's doing at the Mission!**

Zach and I went to pick up Ali (our 15 year old) at school and all three of us ate lunch when we returned. A local church (First United Methodist) brought in a wonderful lunch today of goulash, bread, lettuce salad, slices of watermelon and various cookies and bars. **They served 109 people today!**

We went back to our post at the Food Pantry. Ali and Tina's daughter, Grace, signed people in the pantry log, and Zach and Tina's other daughter, Olivia, walked the people through the Pantry. The kids switched positions at one point, so they got to do a little of each this afternoon! Carol, a friend of the Mission, asked Ali to help her through the Pantry. I think that made Ali feel extra-special! :-) Eric, another volunteer, looked through the log book around 2pm, and at that point, he mentioned **we had already helped 46 people with food from the Food Pantry today! WOW!**

While they were busy with the Food Pantry, I helped people with emergency clothing in our Clothes Closet...men's jeans, t-shirts, socks, underwear. I helped more people today with clothes than I ever have before! The people I helped were very grateful and appreciative of the clothing they received! One man came in and asked for blankets...he just moved into a new place to live, and didn't have anything to cover up with at night. (I didn't even know we had blankets...but we did!)

We left the Mission around 2:30 to go home. I didn't get to hear many people's stories



today, but I was blessed in so many other ways. A friend of the Mission asked me if I would pray for his adult son, daughter-in-law, and grandson as they are working through some transitions in their home. I was blessed to see smiles on the people's faces

I helped with simple things like food and clothing. I was blessed to see an eleven month old in the Mission today...knowing even his little life is better because of Mission of Hope. I was blessed to hear and see one of the men up on the altar playing music on a guitar. I was blessed to see my children helping others, and smiling at those who might have needed someone else's smile today. I was blessed to leave the Mission today with a grateful and thankful heart for all they things God has done for me and my family and for how He continues to take care of us.

Tonight I will go to bed with a little more **joy** in my heart from being at the Mission today, yet I also feel a **heaviness** for all the hurting and needy people in our world, our country and our cities, who many not even have somewhere safe to sleep tonight. **I pray that God will touch them in a very special way tonight, and ask that He will lead them to a place like Mission of Hope!**

Looking forward to next Tuesday...

Julie