

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

Mission Tuesday #3



I spend Tuesdays at Mission of Hope volunteering my time. I didn't go in last Tuesday because of Jill's passing, but went in to help over the lunch hour on Friday. Today I arrived at the Mission around 10:00ish and was there for about four hours.

I have to say it's becoming to feel like "home" when I'm there. I've met some wonderful people, and it's fun to be able to call people by their name now. Today I met George and Joseph while helping Mission patrons in the food pantry. George told me about his job at a local grocery store and how much he enjoys working there. He's very thankful for his job. At the end of our conversation, he blessed me in saying, "Thank you for talking to me." I'm the one that was thankful, and replied, "No, George. Thank YOU for talking to ME." I think I've seen Joseph at the Mission before, but hadn't had the chance to meet him. After I wrote his information in the log book, I asked him to sign his name..."Please sign your name here, sir." He paused a moment, looked at me and said, "You called me sir. Thank you. No one ever calls me sir. People used to call me sir, but no one does anymore." I smiled and said, "Well, your welcome...sir." :-)

It was a busy Tuesday, as they all seem to be. Besides helping in the food pantry, I re-stocked the food pantry, helped go through the pre-packaged food that came in today, helped get the kitchen ready for the church group that was coming in to serve lunch, did some dishes and helped serve lunch. Antioch Christian Church made and served a wonderful lunch of barbeque beef and pork sandwiches, homemade bean soup, fruit cocktail, and my favorite...bread pudding! The meal was so good, and many patrons came back for seconds and commented how they enjoyed the lunch! We served around 75 people today. It was good to meet other fellow volunteers from another church! :-)

I was shocked to see Tina's (my best friend) husband, Mike walk through the door to help after lunchtime. It had been awhile since I've seen him, and it was fun to serve at the Mission with him today. The most touching thing happened right before I left to go pick up the kids from school. I had a wonderful conversation with Phyllis, who is on staff at the Mission and who is a wonderful Christian woman and friend. She encouraged me, cared about me and made me feel very appreciated. We hope to take some time to talk next Tuesday, if we can fit it in while I'm there.

It was wonderful to help others today...to forget about my "stuff" for awhile, and to focus on others. Helping there also helps me be thankful for so much! I am really enjoying my Mission Tuesdays! :-)