

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

Mission Tuesday #4

Ali gave me a "Bible Verse-A-Day" Calendar for Christmas. Each morning when I get down to my office to tear off the page from the day before to reveal the current day's scripture verse. I always enjoy reading it, then coming back to it later in the day to see if it impacted me or encouraged me in some way throughout my day. Today scripture is from *Psalms 28:8* - "*The Lord is the strength of his people...*" I appreciated and needed that verse today!

I woke up tired today, and not feeling 100%. I think allergy season arrived yesterday, because I could tell my sinuses were starting to suffer, my nose was itching, and my eyes were watering! Ugh! I honestly wanted to stay home and rest today...but I couldn't. Tuesdays I volunteer at Mission of Hope...I call them "Mission Tuesdays." I missed last week because of our Spring Break...and I REALLY missed it! I always enjoy helping out there, but physically today, I just wanted to stay in bed! But I chose to honor my commitment to go Mission of Hope...and with *the Lord being my strength* (Bible verse for today!), I'm glad I did!

I arrived there about 10am, and from the time I arrived until the time I left, I was BUSY! :-)) I all of a sudden forgot about how I felt...it's funny how that happens! :-)) Today I just filled in where help was needed...I put out pastries in the morning and in the afternoon for the patrons to snack on, I made about eight pots of coffee--coffee is a hot (and vital) commodity at the Mission :-)), I filled the cooler (big refrigerator) with fresh pastries, pies, cakes, etc. that were brought in this morning, I discarded food that needed to be pitched due to expiration dates, I bagged up some great-looking fried chicken for patrons to receive, I restocked the food pantry with bread, I cleaned up the kitchen after lunch, and I was blessed to visit with many of the patrons of the Mission throughout my day.



Lunch was AMAZING! Antioch Christian Church once again brought in a very yummy

lunch! They served about 78 people today. It was goulash (incredible!), corn, mixed fruit, pumpkin bars and a great kind of orange sherbet smoothie! It was nice to sit down and enjoy lunch with Phyllis, Tom A., and Tina's girls, Grace and Olivia. That doesn't always happen...sometime I'm eating lunch on the go there, so I really appreciated that time to visit. Phyllis is wonderful...I SO enjoy her company!

Tina (my life-long friend) was working at the Mission today...I was blessed to be working with her. Even though our paths didn't cross there as much as I would have liked, it was great knowing we were both doing our part to help others and to serve God. :-)

Mission of Hope's Vision is to offer a Christ-centered ministry 24 hours a day, seven days a week



to meet the physical, emotional & spiritual needs of former offenders and others in need. People from all kinds of walks of life, backgrounds, life experiences, social and economical statuses come to Mission of Hope. Today I felt privileged to help a young father pick out a birthday cake for his probably six year-old daughter. We had some cakes donated to us, and he picked out a chocolate cake decorated in bright green and white frosting. He had already visited the food pantry for non-perishable food items, and the clothes closet for clothes, and I believe his little girl was given a toy that was also donated to the Mission for just such an occasion. He was so grateful, so thankful, and so taken back by the Mission's generosity. It was a blessing for me to be able to take in all of what he was experiencing!

The Lord certainly was my strength today! Even though I left the Mission feeling tired, I felt great about being a part of what God did at Mission of Hope today! :-)