

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009**

### Mission Tuesday #5



Yesterday was "Mission Tuesday" for me...I volunteer at Mission of Hope on Tuesdays. I was looking forward to spending my day there. Yes, part of me still fights the thoughts of *"I have so much work to do at home, I should be spending my day there"* and thoughts of *"I should be working and making money instead of volunteering my time"* and thoughts of *"There's so many other things that I need to get done"* but I have come to the realization that serving at the Mission not only helps others, but it helps ME!

Walking through the front door of the Mission I was greeted by a few familiar faces. Even though our family goes to church there each Sunday, there are different people at the Mission during the week, so I'm still getting to know peoples' names. I realized yesterday how I need to improve on remembering peoples' names!

Scott, another volunteer, was working away in the kitchen getting lunch ready, so I



began helping him. Another volunteer had made yesterday's lunch of chicken pot pie without the crust and mashed potatoes. We added diced pears, macaroni salad, sliced bread and a variety of cakes to complete the meal. I pretty much spent my time in the kitchen all day...there was so much to do! I cut cake and put the pieces on small plates, and made probably 8-10 pots of coffee

throughout the day. I set out pastries in the morning and in the afternoon for the Mission patrons, and put in the cooler pre-packaged sandwiches that were delivered yesterday.

Lunch is served at noon...you know when it's getting close to noon because the building fills up with people! :-) Helping serve the meal is one of my favorite things to do because I get to speak to and smile at each and every person there! My job was serving the pears and macaroni salad. Both were a hit! We served 93 people today. The meal was very tasty, and many commented on how good it was! Many came back for seconds!:-)



I always enjoy meeting new people when I'm there. I met a couple new volunteers who I hadn't met before. I also met a fairly new Mission patron, Michael. His story intrigued me...he shared he lost his job and became homeless all in the same day...which was only about a week and a half ago. It blessed me when he said he was staying at the Mission of Hope Shelter just around the corner. :-) He's out each day applying at different businesses and doing what he can to become employed again. My heart went out to him as he said being homeless is a whole new world for him.

The more I'm there, I'm realizing the people who use the Mission for food, shelter, clothing, etc. are really no different than me. They may have different circumstances than I do, but they are still a child of God. They have issues...I have issues. They have discouragements...I have discouragements. They have problems...I have problems. The same God that loves me also loves them...AND JUST AS MUCH! He doesn't love me any more than He loves each of them!

What a gift Mission of Hope has been to me...to change me and my attitude, to help me to love and appreciate others who may be a little different than me, to help me see things from other peoples' perspectives, to encourage me when I'm discouraged, and to give me a place to serve God! I cherish my Tuesdays! I ended my day there today with an encouraging conversation with

Phyllis, who is a staff member there and friend. I appreciate her so much...her compassion for people, her wisdom to handle different situations, and her heart of thankfulness.

I thank God today for Mission of Hope!