

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2010

Mission Tuesday #63

It has brought me great joy sharing my experiences at Mission of Hope for the last 63 weeks. :) I can honestly say I never dreamt I would be working with people who are hurting, homeless and hopeless. Who has though? Who, as a child, when asked what one wants to be when he/she grows up, responds with, "I want to help the hurting people and homeless people of the world? I want to give them hope!" That's what I get to do each week at Mission of Hope...give people hope. And I'm thankful God has called me to such a privilege!



Today I was at the Mission for a very short time, but what I want to share that touched me happened even before I got to the Mission. One of the local Pizza Huts donates personal pan pizzas which are unused from the local ballpark after their series of home games are over. Today I stopped to pick up those pizzas from their store.

The manager had just arrived as I pulled into the parking lot. I walked in and told her who I was. She said as she looked out the window at what I was driving, "We might have more pizza than what will fit in your car." (I thought, "Oh my!") We decided to see what we could fit in. She said she was estimating that I would be taking with me over forty pounds of personal pan pizzas! We loaded my car, trunk and back seat filled, and everything fit!

I thanked her for her donation to the Mission and commented on the fact that not everyone has a heart like hers that wants to give to people who are hurting and have needs. She explained she personally sought out organizations like ours to donate these pizzas to. She just couldn't stand to seeing perfectly fine pizzas being thrown in the

dumpster when people in our community go hungry each day. I listened to her words and her heart.

She went on to say that she and her store have partnered with one of the local schools and they provide pizzas each week to each building in the school. (I knew which school she was talking about before even bringing up its name, because my children have had Pizza Hut pizza one day each week of their lives at school!) I thanked her for the part she has played in lunches at school, especially for my children. She shared why she started that program. When she was little, her family was on food stamps, so she would get her lunches free at school. (The same school where my children now attend.) On some days, her lunch would be her only meal for the day, as she wasn't fed breakfast at home, and maybe not dinner either. She said the ladies in the lunch line knew she was getting her lunches for free, and would give her smaller portions and bigger portions to kids who paid for their lunches. As a shy child, she could not tell these ladies that she was just as hungry, if not more, than the other kids. (This broke my heart.)

She has used that unfair, unpleasant experience as a child to bless others now as she's an adult. She said she makes sure each pizza is cut the same, with the same size slices, so no one will be getting a smaller piece. It makes her feel good to help children have a nutritious lunch, especially just in case this might be their only meal of the day. What a story, and what a wonderful thing she is doing! God is using her and her pizza to touch the lives of many! She is giving people at Mission of Hope, and the children at this school, hope in her own way! What a gift!

I know I made a friend today, and I'm looking forward to next time I go in and pick up pizzas! May God bless her, her store and Pizza Hut for what they are doing! :)