

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009

Mission Tuesday #11

FUN

Today was another great day at Mission of Hope! The word that I would choose to describe today would be the word "FUN!" From the time I arrived, to the time I left, I found myself laughing, smiling, and enjoying my time at the Mission!

I'm getting to know the people who come to the Mission more and more. I'm getting to the point where many feel comfortable enough to joke with me and I can joke with them. Each week I seem to get more smiles and "hellos". I'm becoming familiar to them being there each week. I could write story after story of my experiences today...I have so many! I'll choose a few to share...

It has been a true blessing to get to work with, and to know better, Sarah--who's the daughter of a friend I work with. She's doing something similar to an internship at the Mission for college. We had some wonderful conversations today, and some great laughs. I enjoyed eating lunch with Sarah. One of the conversations we had was about the tornado that ripped through the town where her grandmother lived a year ago this coming Monday, which devastatingly took her grandmother's life. What a terrible tragedy it was for her family! Thursday is Sarah's last day at the Mission. What a blessing she has been...she'll be GREATLY missed!

I saw my friend Mike...he's the one who was amazed that I remembered his name a few weeks ago. He always remembers mine. I don't know his story, but I'd like to. I hadn't seen him for a couple weeks, so it was good to see him again. He looked thinner and much more frail today than I remember him being. He also seemed a little sad. It made me feel good to reach out to him in just saying hi to him today.

I served desserts today...which you know I love to serve lunch! I get to speak to and smile to each person who comes through the line. We had some amazing desserts...cheesecake, turtle cake, caramel coffee cake and a dessert that looked like strawberry shortcake. Very few people turned down dessert. It was fun to watch their eyes get a little bigger when they came to my part of the line...no thanks to me...but thanks to the desserts! I would say something like, "Hi. How are you today? Do you care for dessert? Would you like cheesecake or turtle cake?"

When Sarah and I were eating lunch, another man, who for the life of me I can't remember his name right now, was telling us about his job that he starts tomorrow...a flagger for road construction. He's hoping he'll be able to do this job well, and that his formerly injured leg will hold out okay for him. He's staying at the Mission of Hope Shelter right now and seemed very thankful for housing and his new job.

I got to repackage bacon to put in the freezer with Tammy, another volunteer, this afternoon. One of the Mission patrons helped us, and it was good to be able to talk to him a little...I see him every week, but have never really talked to him. It was great to work with Tammy. She does so much for the Mission, but I rarely get the opportunity to work with her! Can you believe it was even fun for me to even repackage bacon? :-)

Today was a very FUN day for me! If I wouldn't have been at the Mission today, I would have missed out on so many blessings! I'm thankful for the staff, the volunteers, the patrons of the Mission, and for Mission of Hope! God is doing a great work there, and I'm privileged to be a part of it! :-)