

Mission Tuesday #89

Each week I write about my time spent at Mission of Hope, which began long ago as "Mission Tuesdays." It's hard to believe I started almost two years ago volunteering just once a week there, on Tuesdays, and now I spend a good majority of my week at the Mission. :) It brings a smile to my face as I write this.



I've kept naming my Mission of Hope posts "Mission Tuesdays," but this week I'm going to share what happened at Mission of Hope yesterday...Sunday. I can't seem to get yesterday out of my mind. I've been recalling it all day. Yesterday was Mission of Hope's annual Thanksgiving meal. It followed immediately after our Sunday morning Worship Service. A half-hour before the meal was to be served, people were milling around both inside and out in the front of the building. We had been announcing it all week that this special meal would be on Sunday, and by the looks of it, our friends remembered that. :)



Two women, Tammy and Mary, headed up the cooking of the food, and boy did it smell wonderful! I imagine, even blocks away, people could have followed their noses to the Mission! The meal consisted of roast beef, turkey, sweet potatoes, party potatoes, green bean casserole, gravy, rolls, pie and a number of beverages. It was a feast fit for a king!



Ten or so local firefighters blessed everyone by serving the meal. Out of the goodness of their hearts they took time out of their work day to serve all of us. Every now and then we would hear their radio go off, and I half-expected them to be called away to a fire, but that never happened. I guess a couple of fire trucks that they arrived in were parked out back...I wish I would have gotten a picture of them!



I stood back at one point and tried to really soak in what I was seeing. Many volunteers had come to help...some were Board members of Mission of Hope, some were already faithful volunteers at the Mission, some were friends of the Mission, some were new to Mission of Hope, but wanted to help out in some way, and some were the patrons we serve during the week. I was touched by watching the community come together to serve one another..."church people," "community people," "street people," "the least, the last and the lost" ...all coming together in one place!



I thought to myself, "This must make God smile." The Mission was filled with smiles everywhere, including my daughter Ali, and Tina's husband, Mike!



Those who came through the line for the meal were so thankful. After they ate, many made comment after comment on how wonderful the food was. And when I sat down to eat, I couldn't help but agree. Over 170 people ate and celebrated Thanksgiving together yesterday at Mission of Hope! For many, that might have been their only meal for the day. I thought of that last night as my husband and I ate dinner out together. I was fortunate to have three meals yesterday, and some in this city only had one...and it was from the Mission.



We all shared lots of laughs, hugs, greetings, fun, fellowship, food, smiles, and joy yesterday. Even though Ron (below) was trying to be serious, right after I snapped this picture, he couldn't help but laugh and smile. :) It truly was a blessed day at Mission of Hope! I personally thank each and every volunteer who made the Thanksgiving meal possible. Those who cooked, served, poured drinks, wiped down table and trays, did dishes, took the garbage out, set up tables and took them down, cleaned up afterwards and got the Mission back to the way it normally looks for the week ahead, and many more things that I can't think of right now. It couldn't have been a success without each one doing their part.



“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Luke 2:14