

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009**

**Mission Tuesday #37**



My "Mission Tuesday" last week was different than any kind of Tuesday I've ever had at Mission of Hope. I felt a few weeks earlier that God had put it on my heart to make a lunch for one of the Tuesdays at the Mission. I had mentioned that to Tom, a staff member who helps with the planning of the lunches, and we began to put things together for one of my casseroles I make for family gatherings. I usually make it for 15 people, not 150...so I had some expanding of the recipe to do. :-)

But to make a long story a little shorter, it came together beautifully...it's normally a broccoli, cauliflower, rice casserole, but I made it into a broccoli, chicken and rice casserole. I began making it in shifts the week prior at home. Most of that week our house either smelled like chicken or broccoli. :-) Good thing my family likes both! I baked the chicken in the evenings, which took longer than I thought it would...we did 30# of chicken! On Sunday afternoon, I began putting everything together in three batches...I knew if I made enough to fill three roaster pans full, that we would have enough to feed 150.

I thought it was interesting that this past week in my Bible Study Fellowship class, our lesson was on John 6...when Jesus fed the 5,000 on five loaves and two fish...and here I was, making a lunch for 150, using what I had and the time I had to do so, and God multiplied it all...just like He did with the five loaves and two fish! His timing for that lesson for me was perfect (as always)! :-)

I loaded the car Tuesday morning full of broccoli, chicken and rice casserole, got everything to the Mission, and began to warm it through in the roaster pans. We added apple crisp, which was already prepared, fruit cocktail, warm rolls and different pies and

cakes to complete the meal. I have to say, it warmed my heart to see each person come through the line, knowing that each one of them would be receiving from the love that I put into making that casserole. My brother, Pat, even joined me for lunch at the Mission!

That was something pretty awesome for me to experience, and it's kind of hard for me to explain. But it was a neat thing God did for my heart, and it felt so good to give to hungry people like that! The most interesting thing was, after we were done serving 136 people, we still had one roaster pan left...full of the casserole! There were leftovers! The same with the account of Jesus feeding the 5,000...there were 12 baskets filled with leftover bread after the 5,000 were done eating! :-)

I find myself wanting to be at Mission of Hope more often. It boggles my mind that in just a matter of months, I have gone from being nervous at being at the Mission during the day, to wanting to be there more and more! I realize that is something God has done in my heart...it's certainly not me! He's changed my heart to have compassion for the hurting people of this community and of this world. I just wish everyone in the world could experience the feelings I get by being there...I absolutely love it!

Making that meal stretched me...I'm don't really enjoy cooking, nor do I like cleaning up in the kitchen...but none of that seemed to matter as I was preparing the casserole at home. I found myself picturing in my mind the faces of the different Mission patrons, knowing that I could give to them and love them in a different way than I ever had before, through making this casserole. It brought me such joy, and a sense of awe and humbleness. I'm glad God doesn't leave us the way we are...He continues to mold and stretch us into the people He wants us to become.

It's pretty cool what God can do through any circumstance...including making a casserole! :-)