

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Mission Tuesday #35



Tuesday was another wonderful day at Mission of Hope. It's hard to believe this is my 35th Tuesday that I've been helping there. I think I am addicted to being there Tuesdays! :-) Can an addiction be a good thing? In this case, I know it is. :-) I really look forward to my Tuesdays!

I spent probably 95% of my time in the kitchen on Tuesday. If you have read previous posts on my blog, you might recall me stating that the kitchen is NOT my area of expertise. But I feel if the kitchen is where I'm needed, then that's where I am supposed to be! Needless to say, it's been a learning experience cooking for 150 people each time! God is certainly growing me!

Tom, one of the staff, made Tuna and Noodle Casserole for Tuesday, and all we really had to do was to cut broccoli to add to the casserole, top the casseroles with bread crumbs, and heat them through in the oven. Along with the casserole, we served veggie trays, fruit trays, dinner rolls, chocolate pudding and cakes to complete the meal. We served 123 people lunch on Tuesday.

One of the scariest things I've witness there happened in the kitchen during lunch. I had just taken out of the oven one of the big pans of the casserole, and turned around to take it over to the counter to replace the one that was quickly becoming empty in the serving line. As I turned, Wilbert, one of the volunteers, grabbed on to my right arm and said, "Wait." I stopped, trying to figure out what was going on, and I quickly realized he was having a seizure. I didn't know what to do...my hands held this heavy pan of food, yet I needed to grab on to Wilbert as he was shaking and I thought he would fall. I yelled for Phyllis who wasn't far from the kitchen, and from the looks of my face and the sound of

my voice, she came quickly over to us. She held Wilbert, I put the pan of food down and got him a chair to sit on.

This was his second seizure that day. I was scared and concerned for him. It was a mild seizure and it didn't last very long, thankfully. He was exhausted after it had passed. After resting there in the kitchen for awhile, he got a plate of food and relaxed to eat. I joined him after we were done serving food. He seemed to be doing ok after that.

I realized again after that experience that I am truly loving the people I get to work alongside of at Mission of Hope. Many times I write about the Mission patrons, but my heart has been very drawn to the members of the Mission staff and the volunteers too. They are an amazing bunch of people! I know they have been placed there by God, and it's no accident I get to work with them. It's unlike anything I've ever experienced before! I learn so much from them each week...their love for people, their love for God, compassion, hard work, believing in others, kindness, authentic transparency...it's incredible. We have so much fun too...laughing, enjoying each other's company, encouraging each other, etc. as we work together for a common goal to show God's love to everyone we can at the Mission.

My heart ached for Wilbert, as there was nothing I could do to snap him out of his seizure...except pray. I saw him yesterday when I stopped at the Mission for a meeting. I asked him how we was doing, and he said, "...better, but not 100%." I am praying for Wilbert today, and I trust God is taking care of him.

My Daily Bible Verse Calendar's scripture for today is Matthew 5:7, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Mission of Hope is full of merciful people, and I'm beyond blessed in getting to "hang with" them each Tuesday and Thursday. God's Word says they will be shown mercy...and God doesn't go back on His Word. May God's mercy touch and penetrate each person...whether staff, volunteer, friend of the Mission, or a patron of the Mission. I'm praying that for each one today.

I find it humbling that 35 weeks ago, I really didn't have any of these wonderful, merciful people in my life, and now I consider them wonderful friends. I can't imagine

my Tuesdays without them, and I look forward to working alongside of them again next week! :-)