

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009**

### **Mission Tuesday #31**



God is really teaching me, training me and growing me at Mission of Hope each week! I have to say, each week I walk in with some expectation of what I might learn or experience, but it never fails...each week, I am so far off in my expectations! :-)

Tuesday was no exception! I walked in, knowing it was again our day to make lunch. Now, when another church or organization brings in lunch, I get to do other things outside of the kitchen, and I get to interact so much more with the Mission patrons. But I feel I'm needed in the kitchen when it's our Tuesday to make lunch.

Sometimes at home it's a struggle for me to come up with a meal for us four...and I laughed on Tuesday when I realized I help prepare meals for 150 at Mission of Hope! I shared that with the other volunteers...God is growing all of us! :-)

I am so thankful for the other volunteers who helped me in the kitchen Tuesday...Mary, Michelle, Kate, Kim and Cindy. The meal would not have been finished on time without them! So, instead of being able to interact with the Mission patrons, I interacted with these five great women. One is a grandmother who helped her granddaughter finish some community hours at the Mission a week or so ago, and even though those hours are finished, she still volunteers her time. One works as a server at a local restaurant. I met her for the first time on Tuesday. Another is a college student, and is volunteering her hours as part of a class she's taking. Another is volunteering as she looks for a job. This gives her something to do that's productive and that gives to others. Another one volunteers a lot at the Mission. I don't know much of her story though, but I hope to change that.

As I'm getting to know these women, I feel like we can all encourage each other where we are at in life, and with no matter what each of us may be going through. We laughed together a lot on Tuesday. We panicked together, thinking our meal might not be done in time. We prepared food together...each doing our own part, but working together. We cleaned up together. We were exhausted afterwards together. :-) These five women made my day so much more enjoyable! I was, and still am, so very thankful for them!

We served 128 people Tuesday. All of this sounds wonderful, but there were some very tense moments in the kitchen that day as we prepared the food. A miscommunication in the meal left us with lasagna brought in to serve only about 24 people. We panicked slightly, especially since it was close to 10am already, and we serve lunch at noon.

Tom, one of the Mission's staff, brought 3 lasagna mixes to us. We began to hurriedly brown the hamburger, then mixed everything together in large pans, and then each pan needed approximately 45 minutes in the oven. We have one oven at the Mission. (We became a little more panicked.) We took one pan over to the Mission's shelter to cook there. We started a roaster of mixed veggies, added butter and seasoned them...they smelled amazing! We put together a lettuce salad. We cut up desserts and mixed up lemonade. We warmed the garlic bread. Everything was ready at 11:50...except the lasagna. We started serving at noon the ones that were brought in, and by the time we needed the pans in the oven...wouldn't you know...by the grace of God, they were done! (Why did we even panic in the first place?)

God again taught me a great lesson Tuesday...**have faith in and trust Him. 2** Corinthians 5:7 says, "*We live by faith, not by sight.*" In all reality, my eyes were telling me that these pans of lasagna were not going to get done, and I began to panic. I trusted my eyes more than I trusted God. How many times do you and I do that in a day, in a week, in a year? We put more faith in what we see than in what we cannot see...God. We look at our circumstances and get discouraged, instead of having faith that God is working behind the scenes which we cannot see, and trusting Him to work through our circumstances to possibly change those circumstances. **What is faith?** Hebrews 11:1 says, "*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*"

Wouldn't you know, it turned out to be a great lunch! I feel God blessed us six women afterwards, because after lunch was over, we found a pan of cherry cheesecake dessert that was pushed to the back of the cooler (refrigerator). So we all sat down and enjoyed a piece (or two) of cherry cheesecake!

I smiled to myself as I left the Mission that day thinking... "*God can even teach me through a pan of lasagna!*" May you and I live by faith this week, and not by sight! :-)