

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Mission Tuesday #26



"Every time we encourage others, we give them a transfusion of courage." --Chuck Swindoll

Wow, as I'm writing what number of "Mission Tuesday" today is, I'm realizing I have been helping at Mission of Hope each Tuesday for six months now! Six months? Wow, time has flown!

Leaving Mission of Hope to go home this afternoon, I found myself feeling a little weary, but very encouraged. Each time I leave the Mission, I recap in my mind my day. I did the same sort of things today I normally do each Tuesday...helped people with clothes, helped make and served lunch and helped in the kitchen, helped put away donations, talked to people, listened to people, make coffee, etc. But a few new things stood out to me today as I recalled my day on my way home.

Today was the first day that I was asked for jackets this season. It was in the 40's this morning when I woke up, and anyone who may not have a warm place to sleep, namely the two men I helped, needed something to keep them warm. The jackets that I found in the Clothes Closet were very nice jackets. The two men I helped were very appreciative. I am not ready for fall or winter weather!

We made and served lunch today...well, we didn't actually make the whole meal. Mary, who has made main dishes for us many times, had made a tater tot casserole in roaster pans and oven pans. We just added mozzarella cheese and tater tots on top. I began to panic around 11am when I realized the pans might not be heated through by noon (the time we serve). Making a few adjustments, we were able to heat everything in time. :-)

Whew! We added fresh fruit, coleslaw that Mary also made, rhubarb cobbler, angel food cake with raspberries, and cupcakes. We served around 120 people lunch today.

I ate lunch with Gary, one of the volunteers, an elderly woman and another man, who I hadn't met before. This man was asking questions about the Mission, and commenting on what a nice place the Mission is to be able to come to. He added, "This will probably be moved out of town like everything else." It felt good to say, "No, Mission of Hope is a mission for this city, the surrounding area and for the people of this area. Mission of Hope won't be moving." :-) God planted Mission of Hope right where He wants it to be.

I had a conversation with the man who I prayed with a few weeks ago, and mentioned in an earlier post. This man was telling Tina about our talk that day and how he left the Mission so encouraged. He said a few Sundays ago, he was able to reach out to a young man, and was able to encourage him, because he remembered our talk that day and how God helped me to reach out to this man. The quote above came to mind when he was telling his story today. I told him how he was such a blessing to me that day, and that it was a day I will not soon forget. :-)

All people need encouragement...and I see it each time I'm at the Mission. The volunteers who give of their time are encouraged, and it's fun to see them encourage each other and the Mission patrons. They encourage me, and I in turn, try to do the same to them in ways I can. Each staff member is an encouragement to the people they serve. When we encourage someone we build them up, we strengthen their courage to keep going, to keep fighting, to keep on keeping on. I truly feel we cannot live effectively without receiving encouragement. What a blessing it is! Mission of Hope, in my mind could also be called "Mission of Encouragement." :-) (Ok, I wrote the word encourage a lot here!)

It was a great day at Mission of Hope today! There's really no other place on earth that I would have rather been at today. I wish each and every one of you who are reading this could experience what I get to experience each Tuesday at Mission of Hope. I guess you could if you wanted to join me on a day there! :-) What a gift Mission of Hope is to so many people, including me!