

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

Mission Tuesday #29



Yesterday was another great day at Mission of Hope. My five hours there were filled with lots of activity...the normal things like making coffee, re-packaging food, organizing the cooler, doing dishes, restocking, making more coffee :-), helping at lunchtime, etc.

The three volunteers who were new last Tuesday were back again...Kim, Mary and her granddaughter, Hannah. They are SO fun to work with! Yesterday wasn't quite as busy as last week, so I was able to get to converse with them a little more and get to know them a little better! About an hour before lunch, Mary and Hannah were just finishing re-packaging some chicken patties for the Food Pantry, and as I walked by, I got a whiff of the chicken patties. My, did those frozen chicken patties smell yummy! I didn't realize they were smelling great to Mary and Hannah too! On a whim, we all three decided to have one--we warmed them up in the microwave, Hannah put hers in a bun with ketchup, Mary ate hers plain on a plate, and I ate mine on a plate with mayo. :-) Such simple things can bring such joy!

About the same time, five college students came in from a local college wanting to volunteer a few hours each week at the Mission. We shared with them what we do, gave them a short tour and they each plan to come back next week to help! What a blessing! :-)

Antioch Church provided another great lunch...goulash, green beans, applesauce, tapioca pudding, chocolate chip cookies and fruit punch. We served 141 people lunch.

One of the Mission patrons after lunch came bounding up to me. I could tell she was excited. She has opened up to me before and has shared a few things with me about her

life recently. She led me by the hand to the sanctuary, and we sat down in two chairs facing each other. She began to tell me what transpired in her morning. She was nervous and excited, all at the same time. I could smell alcohol on her breath.

One of the things I appreciate about Mission of Hope is that we don't turn away those who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. We are taught to treat them the way Jesus would have treated them...to love them, encourage them, and to breathe belief into their lives.

She shared a little more about her past with me and how she used to use "hard core" drugs. She said she's not been "using" for over a year now, even though she still drinks. I believed her and encouraged her to keep going, and reminded her that God has a plan for her life. I'm so glad she felt she could come to me and share with me her excitement and her fears. It felt good to be trusted by her. She gave me the biggest hug before we parted. I was very humbled by our time together.

Breathing belief into people's lives...that's what I felt God was asking me to do yesterday at Mission of Hope. That's something we can do each and every day...if we choose to. This afternoon I will make that my focus with my husband and my children. Who can you breathe belief into today? :-)