

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2009

Mission Tuesday #30



Can it really be 30 weeks of volunteering at Mission of Hope?

Tuesday flew by, just like the last 30 weeks have! :-) It was a very busy day at the Mission; however, I didn't venture much from the kitchen.

We provided lunch on Tuesday, and as I have mentioned before, on the days we provide lunch, it gets much busier for all of us. From 9am until 1pm, I was in the kitchen...making coffee, expanding one roaster pan of Reuben Casserole to three pans, helping with the side dishes and baking the casseroles. I think God is forcing me to learn how to cook...but for 150? I can handle our family of four much better. :-)

It turned out to be a great meal, and I thank the Lord for Kim, Mary, Hannah and Michelle, and a couple of other volunteers! We couldn't have pulled off the meal without them! I'm not sure how many we served...my job was manning the oven, so I missed out on the total number of people who came through the line.

As I was finishing my lunch, the woman who shared with me last week came and sat down beside me. She is a bundle of energy and joy! She filled me in on the new developments of her life. She's still homeless. She shared with me that the daughter that was removed from her care because of her drug addiction years ago is asking about her and wants to know more about "her mommy." She was excited about that. She also shared ways how God has blessed her and her fiance recently. I'm glad she was giving glory to God for the great things He has done for her...both little and big.

But what she said next put a lump in my throat and stopped me in my tracks...she asked, "So how are things with you?"

Umm...What could I say? I stuttered and stammered on my words, and finally got out..."Everything's ok. Just busy with the kids and their schedules right now." (How lame was that?!) The only thing I could think of was "here is this dear friend who is homeless, and she has all of this stuff going on in her life. She has a past drug addiction that she fights daily. She has lost one of her children due to that addiction. One of her children is in prison. How am I supposed to answer 'how are things with me?'" Compared to her life, mine is a bed of roses...yet why do I complain at times? She didn't complain once to me...she had more energy and joy it seemed, than I did on Tuesday!

God has blessed me in so many ways! Why, then, do I take them for granted? Why do I not appreciate them like I should daily? Why don't I thank Him for them daily? Why do I look around and see what others have and what I don't? Why does someone who is homeless, seem to be more joy-filled than me?

I was humbled beyond words at that point. She gave me one of her big hugs before she left my presence...her hug melted me. I have learned so much from this friend in such a short period of time. I know without a doubt that God has placed her in my life to teach me and to help me see life from her perspective.

In our Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) lesson this week, God illuminated John 1:16 for me..."From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another." I opened up a new journal last night before bed and began to jot down all the blessings that God has given me...tangible and intangible I thanked Him for each one. What a great way to end the day! I look forward to doing it tonight as well.

One blessing after another...how thankful I am tonight.