



Whirlwind Missions

Ashley's Dispatch

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ashleycummins.com

ashleycummins@gmail.com



About two years ago a missionary friend of mine mentioned something that I've always wanted to do. But for one reason or another I never had the chance to do it. That all changed yesterday when Divinity brought me the invitation.

"Dear Parents and Family, You are invited to dine with the Glenhaven Elementary Students on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 from 11:30 to 1:00 pm for our annual Holiday feast."

"You're gonna to come right, Ash-a-ley?" Divinity looks up shaking her head vigorously as if to convince me with head nods. But I didn't need convincing, this was something I've always wanted to do. I remember how special it was when I was in school and my parents would come eat lunch with me. It took me out of the school routine and made the whole day that much better.

On Tuesday morning, Mama and I drove over to Glenhaven Elementary school. We signed in at the front office and were headed to the cafeteria when we saw Armondo. He was bent over tying his shoe, when he looked up his face was full of surprise, "Ashley?" he asked shocked and he ran over to us, "What are you doing here?! Come follow me!" We walked together down the hall together. Armondo proudly showing us off. One of his friends asked, "Is she your mom?" "No, this is my tutor!" Armondo beamed.

We went through the lunch line together and sat down with Mrs. Buffalo's 4th grade class. There were a lot of our Kensington kids in this one class. "Sit here! Sit besides me! I saved you a seat!" They'd all call out as Mama and I walked past. They were so excited to see us outside of the After school program.

Mama and I had a great time bouncing around from table to table surprising each of the kids. I enjoyed sitting with them, watching them interact with their friends and listening to their stories. I know how much it meant to them to see us and spend time with them not doing homework but just eating and talking together. It shows them how much we care about them when we show up when their parents can't. I know that the day Mama and I ate lunch with them will be a day they won't forget.

It's important to not always be focused on the schedule to but to take time to focus on people. My new year's resolution for 2011 is to make more everlasting memories with my mission kids. Whether that's eating lunch at school or hiking up Stone Mountain I can't wait to see what opportunities God open up for us to share.

