

Do I hate blogging?



I haven't really lacked the time in the evenings so I guess I must. At this rate, no one will miss me in a week when I head to Michigan for a week of camp with the tykes who weren't even born yet when I started working in the kid's ministry. So what have I been doing? Well, as I noted a week ago, I started training for my new job. For four of the five days this week I was driving out to a number of dealerships north of here, the furthest an hour away because those are the places Rene, the one I am training with works. After this week I am wondering if I will really earn much more at this job than subbing. As it stands, I would have to take pictures of 75 cars a week in order to earn the same amount. If my dealerships are as spread out as hers then I will be on the road for several hours per week.

Here's what a typical day looks like. Arrive at the dealership with a printout of all the cars on the lot that the dealer has upped to the web that are still missing pictures. Search for the cars in the lot, noting that several are being detailed (cleaned) or repaired, or just waiting for one of the two to be done. Those vehicles will have to wait for another time. Once that is done, which can take a half hour or more if the dealership is large and has many cars to be done, it is time to get the keys for the ones that can be done. This is where we find out that some of the cars have their keys already checked out to someone else. Now we have to talk to those people or get the keys from another source if necessary, like the dealer bags which have the information and second set of keys for each car. Finally, we can start doing the work for which we'll be paid. One (or two since there are two of us for now) at a time we bring the cars up, search the options in them so the right one get marked, print out dealer stickers with said options listed as well as mandatory-by-law warranty

stickers. Next (or first, depending on the person) several photos are taken, skipping or minimizing any major defects- these are 99% used cars after all. One of the common photos to be skipped is that of the engine if it's really dirty. What is up with today's car engine by the way? Most of them seem to have a plastic covering whose sole purpose is to make the engine look nice when the hood is opened, usually sporting some model number as well. Seems like a waste of money if you ask me, but someone somewhere must have determined that this is what people want, otherwise why bother with the added expense? So with the pictures done, the car has to be returned- I prefer one dealership which insists on doing this themselves as they park them "perfectly" using two people- and a new one retrieved. When finished we print out a receipt which is signed by the contact in the dealership and one copy given to their department that handles the finances. Then it's on to the next dealer. We do two or three in one day, but I suppose the ones making the bigger bucks are doing more. I bet theirs are closer together. As for Rene, she has a personal goal of 100 cars per week which doesn't earn much more than I make as a sub during the school year. That goal was not met this week. Thursday the daily goal of 20 (five days, 20 cars each equals 100- get it?) was met almost all at one dealer, but Friday we only did I think 11 cars. I don't remember the other two days I was with her, but I'm pretty sure we didn't do 20 both days.

This job of course is all outdoors, which for me means the added expense of sunscreen without which I would burn to a crisp. In fact, after Monday which was mostly cloudy I still was quite red after I didn't use it. Monday also had a huge downpour while we were at the third dealer. There had been some light rain earlier in the day, but at the end it just came down in sheets. An umbrella didn't help one bit as it was accompanied by high winds. Since we were taking photos at the time, we ended up in that vehicle. Too bad it was a very old vehicle with few options. The defroster couldn't keep up

with the constantly fogging front window.

Well, I'll tell you more about the job in another post I'm sure, but for now I am tiring of writing so- until then!