

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010

## Mission Tuesday #59



Genesis 12:1-3 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

As usual, last week I spent a couple of my days at Mission of Hope. If you've read any of my posts about my involvement at Mission of Hope, you know it brings me great joy just being there. I enjoy the friendships I have made there with people I would never have probably crossed paths with anywhere else. I enjoy encouraging others. I enjoy being a small part in a work that God is so big in and is at work in! I'm humbled and feel privileged to be there each week.

But last week there, my heart became saddened with some news that I received. Phyllis, who keeps the daily workings running smoothly at Mission of Hope, and who has taught me so much on interacting with people, let the staff know that she and her family will be moving soon to Tennessee. My heart sank with each of her words.

Her husband Tom shared the news at our Mission of Hope Worship Service yesterday morning. Tears, questions, emotions. I think it finally hit me after hearing Tom share yesterday. Phyllis is really leaving.

God has, in a way, told them something similar he told Abram back in Genesis 12...."leave your country...go to the land I will show you." God is asking them to move to Tennessee. Why? They don't know. Where? Other than the city, they don't know.

When? They don't know. But the thing they DO know is that they have to go...because God is leading them to.

Like I mentioned, Phyllis has been my mentor since I began helping at the Mission over a year ago. I have watched her, learned from her, have tried to emulate her, have listened to her, and I have respected her experience in working with hurting people. I have experienced her genuineness, her caring, her compassion and her patience...with me and with others. I have become her friend, and I know I will miss her greatly.

I know God is doing something big to be making this big of a change for Mission of Hope. I'm scared and excited, all at the same time. This is when I must trust Him, and believe more than ever that He's still in charge and in control. I KNOW He is. I'm excited for what God has waiting for Tom and Phyllis in Tennessee, and for the opportunities He is and will be opening for them.

But I can't hide the fact that my heart hurts...for the Mission staff, for the people that come in and who have a relationship with Phyllis, and for me. But, on the other side, what an example Tom and Phyllis are in following God, His Word and His direction as they walk this transition out. Many will be watching, and many will be touched in their obedience to His call on their lives.

I know I didn't share much about my time at Mission of Hope last week, because this has taken my focus. I will resume my normal posts this week. But for now, I pray...God, You are holy. You are above all things. You are in control of all things. I thank you for the call you have on all of our lives, whether we know it or not. And I thank you for the call you have on Phyllis' and Tom's lives. I thank you for what you have done through them at the Mission, and what You will continue to do through them. I ask that you would give us all peace during this time of transition, and that you would help us prepare and to help each other through it. I also ask that you would give Phyllis and Tom, and everyone at Mission of Hope, exactly what they and we need, in Your perfect timing, to be able to serve You better and with great joy. May Your work of loving others continue to multiply in all of our hearts through this. We love you and thank you.

Through Jesus' name we pray. Amen