

**FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010**

## **Mission Tuesday #71**



This week at Mission of Hope was a special one. It was my last week of working with Phyllis. As I've mentioned earlier, Phyllis and her husband, Tom sold their home, and in these last few weeks, she has done her best in trying to help us ease into the transition of not having her at the Mission. Today was her last day at Mission of Hope. Phyllis is such a beautiful woman of God. My heart is saddened to have her go, but as I've written in previous posts, God is calling her and Tom to another adventure with Him. When God says "go," you have to go.

I have learned so much from Phyllis...how to love the hurting, how to love the mentally ill, how to treat those who are different than me, how to look at the bigger picture, how to be firm but loving, how to not give up on people...the list goes on. I've watched her walk this calling on her life out...what a testimony of faith I've witnessed. This move has been totally out of her and Tom's hands, and she's kept her focus on the Lord. They only know where they will be living...and that's about it. Not knowing where they will worship, what they will do for work, where they will go to get groceries, what they will do once they are in Tennessee, etc. Would I have that kind of faith...to trust God so much, even if I didn't know all the details of where I'm moving to or what I'm doing? Wow...I'm simply amazed.

Watching her today, she showed such poise and grace as her Mission of Hope friends came from everywhere to wish her farewell. She cried, she laughed, she was prayed for and was prayed with, she shared her heart with those who came to say goodbye. This had to have been so difficult saying goodbye to so many who have loved her for years...and to whom she loved...sincerely loved. Many of them, I'm sure, have been passed by, maybe even most of their lives. Not shown love, care or concern. But not by

Phyllis. She has loved them all, and has demonstrated that love in their lives. No wonder so many were struggling to see her go today.

Many showed their emotions in different ways. Some shed tears. Some were very quiet. Some, you could tell, were trying not to cry. Some wanted hugs from her...one last hug. Some needed to speak to her directly, and some kept their distance. My heart goes out to all of her Mission friends, as many have dealt with much loss in their lives, and losing Phyllis is another loss for them.

God sent Phyllis in my life to change me, to help me have a heart more like Jesus', and to help me learn to love those who are different than me. Tears are still flowing as I write this. I thank God for Phyllis and for the time I've been able to spend with her. I will love her forever. And even though miles might separate us, our hearts will be joined through our common bond in Jesus. As a patron of the Mission said today, "Phyllis is one of the most Godly people I've ever met. I'm really going to miss her." Amen, brother. Amen.