

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010

Mission Tuesday #67



This is not my normal Mission Tuesday post. I'm hoping it'll move you into action to help a group of people who are special to God...

Many times in the past week I have been moved to tears. I have been reading the book, *Fields of the Fatherless* by C. Thomas Davis, which Phyllis' (from Mission of Hope) husband, Tom lent to me to read. This book has changed me. This book has confirmed for me God's plan for my life, at least His plan for my life right now. I will never look at people the same again, especially the least, the lost and the last.

This book describes the people who are on God's heart...the orphans, widows and aliens (strangers). They are the weak, the under-privileged, and the needy among us. Scripture talks about the importance of caring for these individuals more than sixty times...some of them are Psalm 68:5-6, Deuteronomy 10:17-18, Deuteronomy 14:28-29, Isaiah 1:17, Psalm 82:3-4, Zechariah 7:10. God is committed to this special group.

Mission of Hope helps this special group of people. It's no wonder to me, especially as I'm reading this book, why God continues to bless Mission of Hope! On a daily basis, needs are being met there of the most needy people among us! It's exciting to understand this is what God wants all of us to do...to reach out with compassion to those who are needing compassion! (Read the definition of compassion I shared--which came from this book--on my May 30 post.)

Jesus was all about helping people in need, and His example should really be one we

follow. Remember Matthew 9:36? "And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd." There are multitudes of people among us who are "like a sheep without a shepherd." Are we having compassion on them and reaching out to them? Are we really?

Quoted from the book,

"You see, the reason we don't help the beggar on the road, or the single mother we know who is working herself to death, is the same reason we won't help the orphan dying on the other side of the world. We flee from the need in front of us because of our ancient, ruthless foe, fear.

...We are afraid of changing what we've always done. Our lives have become comfortable and manageable. If loving the stranger, widow, and the poor have never been a part of our lives in the past--even if we know it should be--it's much easier to keep on living the way we always have."

I have heard different comments in the past of how people feel intimidated, and even fearful, of walking into the front door of Mission of Hope...even walking in front of the building, because of "those people" out front. "Those people" may not look like you or I, but they are still part of God's creation. They are still children of God. I can understand the fear, because I was once there. But now, after spending time with them, "those people" are my friends, and are some of the nicest people one would ever have the privilege to get to know. "Those people" are the ones near and dear to God's heart...according to scripture, and because of that, they should be near and dear to MY heart...and thankfully, they are.

I encourage you to not allow fear to stop you from helping those who need your compassion...you know who they are. Get involved. Help. Receive the blessings and joy that is waiting for you in helping those who are near to God's heart. Helping out at Mission of Hope is a great way to get involved and assist those in need! Look around you and you'll see those who need you. And I encourage you to pick up this book...I guarantee you'll be changed by it...Fields of the Fatherless by C. Thomas Davis. Before I give it back to Tom, I plan to read it again. :)