

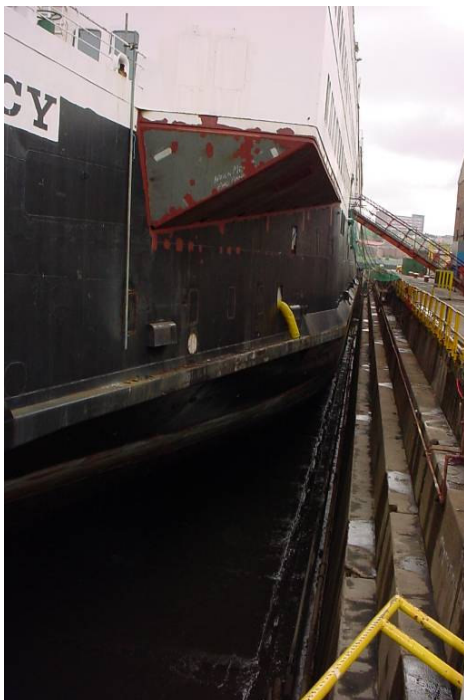
News from Malcolm Taylor – August 2003

Halleluiah, work recommences onboard the Africa Mercy.

The 29th July 2003 was an important day in the history of the Africa Mercy. The moving of the ship into dry dock signified a major step into completing the refit of the former Danish rail ferry into a state of the art hospital ship for Africa. After many months of negotiations a contract was signed with A&P Tyneside Shipyard for the completion of the ship. In order for the yard to make progress with work onboard the ship was moved into their number three dry dock at the Wallsend site.



Within days of moving to the dry dock we saw progress with the work. Yard managers, foremen and contractors could be seen pouring all over the vessel in marking up and identifying the many hundreds of jobs that need to be done. A week later and we are seeing steel workers completing pipe and steel work, while architects and engineers can be seen finishing design work.



My involvement...

I have been tasked with overseeing everything electrical onboard the ship. This includes completing the installation of two new generators and new switchboard, all the cabin and hospital wiring, telephone and network systems, fire and public address systems and also the installation of new bridge equipment.

The task is huge, but as I look back at all the jobs I have done on the Caribbean Mercy and Anastasis, I know that God has prepared me for this major role I am now playing. Over the next few months I will be working alongside yard personnel and contractors ensuring that the end result of their work will be ideal for our use of the ship for many years to come.



With the ship now in dry dock we have all had to relocate to temporary housing ashore. One group has moved to South Shields and is living in a former guesthouse. I have moved into one of three rented flats in Jarrow. With the guys in the upstairs flat the girls downstairs and shared cooking arrangements it is proving to be a basic but adequate arrangement.

As we complete this large, but amazing project of having our first purpose built ship, we ask that you remember us in your prayers. It is the power of prayer and God's faithfulness that will see this ship completed and bringing hope and healing to Africa's poor and needy. Much has to be done to not only prepare this ship but also the staff that will crew her in years to come.

With the work commencing on the Africa Mercy we should also not forget the needs of our other two ships the Anastasis and Caribbean Mercy in their outreaches to Belize and Sierra Leone. The ships may be old, but they are crewed with people full of the joy and love of Christ that is continuing to impact nations all over the world.

God Bless

Contact Details

Malcolm Taylor

M/V Africa Mercy

PO Box 67

Hebburn

Tyne & Wear

NE31 1YU

UK

Mobile Phone: +44 (0) 7939 407331

email: malcolm.taylor@mercyships.org

www.MercyShips.org

www.Caribbean-Mercy.org/Malcolm



News from the other Mercy Ships

Anastasis

PROJECT WORKERS: THE UN-VACATIONS THAT CHANGE LIVES

With the first hint of blackouts, welding and pounding, short-term project workers descend upon the ship en masse for her annual dry dock following 7 months of outreach West Africa. With work boots, blackened coveralls and smiling faces, the 25 - 40

volunteers grace the ship each year during the shipyard phase. Hailing from all over the world, specializing in innumerable technical aspects needed to maintain and improve the ship, these men and women give of their vacations, their time and their energy to keep the Mercy Ship in shape for the next year's outreach.



Though they wield wrench and hammer with skillful ease, they arrive with much more than technical expertise. They often bring with them eagerness and excitement and return time and again, feeling called to this important work year after year. These short-term project workers often come exclusively for the shipyard phase. Yet it is



Praise Items

For the signed contract to complete the Africa Mercy.
For the safe move of the ship into dry dock and recommencement of work onboard.
For the donations received so far to complete the refit.

Prayer Requests

For the Africa Mercy conversion.
For our day to day involvement with the ship yard and sub contractors.
For the monthly payments to complete the refit work.
For our new homes in South Tyneside.
For the Caribbean Mercy's outreach to Belize.
For the Anastasis visit to Sunderland, UK from 10-29 September.

during this time many catch a vision for the long-term needs of the Mercy Ship. Canadian Jamin Rohne dreams of returning to the ship with his wife for a more long-term assignment. Alaska native Jay Upton gladly returned for his fifth time this year, anticipating the thought of returning for a longer span of time after his retirement in a year.

Caribbean Mercy

WORLDWIDE FLEET, WORLDWIDE NEEDS

The *Anastasis*, as one part of a growing fleet of hospital ships, recently bid good-bye to two of its deck hands as they fly to the US to join the *Caribbean Mercy* for her upcoming outreach in Central America. This visual portrayal of one ship helping to meet the immediate needs of another exemplifies the fleet-wide partnership of Mercy Ships. Recently the Chief Engineer of the Africa Mercy helped sail the *Anastasis* to Europe from Africa.



When news of the *Caribbean Mercy's* impending departure to Belize and her shortage of deck hands reached the *Anastasis*, Captain Paulo Ekkebus commissioned Sam Page and Alex

Kamara to join her crew. They will also be joined by the Africa Mercy's Chief Officer who needs to earn sea time in preparation for his Captain's license. As Sam, Alex and Tim join the ranks of Mercy Ships in Central America, the *Anastasis* and *Africa Mercy* anticipates the continual goodwill and partnership between the various ships and offices of Mercy Ships.