

News from Malcolm Taylor – June 2004

Progress Report on the Africa Mercy.



It has been 6 months since I last wrote to you and a lot has happened in that time. Over the winter period we saw the shipyard working all the various systems onboard. New hot and cold water piping, new sprinklers, fire main piping and air conditioning ducting was seen being installed throughout the ship. These last few months have started to see the construction of cabins with the new bulkhead partitions going up. What was once an open area, on deck 4, is now cabins for all our singles and couples. What were large public stairwells are now family cabins.



There is still a large amount of work to go to complete the ship. The hospital needs to be built, fire alarms installed, telephone and computer systems, carpets need to be laid and the list goes on.

With the shipyard carrying out all the contract work, our ships engineers have been busy completing survey and overhauls of the machinery plant. Our deck crew continue to clean, chip and paint areas throughout the ship

Although I came to be the Electrical Superintendent, my role has grown into overseeing the majority of the shipyard work. The naval architect, that we have employed to represent us, handles most of the commercial aspects of this project, but our project team are still covering the technical aspects. In the project office we are busy reviewing drawings, planning

projects, carrying out quality control checks and completing design work. The range of questions we get go from how many door keys do we need, to the location of electrical outlets, to how many lifejackets and fire extinguishers we need.



The ship yard is still promising us a completion date in December, so we are expecting things to be busy over the next few months, especially once all the new systems are in place and we can start the testing and commissioning process.



Commissioning...

Once all the shipyard work is complete we are anticipating a 3-month ramp up period where we start brining the ship into full operation. At the end of the ramp up period we are anticipating a whirlwind public relations tour of Europe and the east coast of America. The PR tour will be kicked off with a high profile commissioning event being planned to take place in London next to Tower Bridge. This will be an exciting time, as it will signify the end of the lengthy conversion process from rail ferry to hospital ship and the start of her new life in Africa.

Contact Details

Malcolm Taylor
M/V Africa Mercy
PO Box 67
Hebburn
Tyne & Wear
NE31 1YU

Mobile Phone: 07939 407331
email: malcolm.taylor@mercyships.org
www.MercyShips.org
www.Caribbean-Mercy.org/Malcolm



Praise Items

For the progress to date on the Africa Mercy.
For the donations received for the conversion.
For the for the good team of volunteers that I am working with.

Prayer Requests

For the completion of the Africa Mercy.
For the planning of the public relations tour for the Africa Mercy.
For time to visit friends and supporters during my time in the UK.

Donation Details

As a full time volunteer, I receive no salary for my work. If you wish to help support my work with Mercy Ships and the worldwide Christian community, that we are called to serve, you may do so through Mercy Ships who can issue a US tax receipt for your donation:

By Check: payable to Mercy Ships, with a separate piece of paper stating that it is for the support of Malcolm Taylor and mail it to: Mercy Ships, Donor Support, PO Box 2020, Garden Valley, TX 75771-2020.

News from the Fleet

Anastasis in Freetown, Sierra Leone



The Anastasis docked in Freetown for six months while Mercy Ships surgeons performed 1,196 procedures, including eye, plastic, Maxillo-facial and

orthopaedic surgeries, onboard the hospital ship.

Sierra Leone's needs drew the Mercy Ship to its shores. The nation is ranked last of 175 nations on the United Nations Human Development Index based on such factors as life

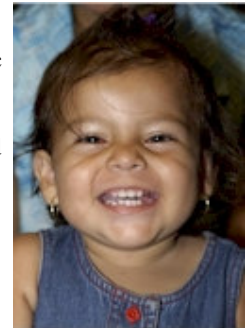
expectancy at birth, infant mortality rate and probability at birth of surviving to age 65. The average life expectancy at birth in Sierra Leone is 42.8 years and in 2001, according to the World Health Organization, the country's health expenditure per capita was just US\$26.

Community Development Services helped build a 20,130 sq. foot building for Mercy Ships New Steps, a land base that provides prosthetics and training to polio survivors; built, with the help of locals, a maternity clinic so women in the village won't have to walk seven miles to the nearest birthing center when they go into labour; provided 20 families with roofing sheets, especially needed as the rainy season has just begun; and rehabilitated 34 wells.

Healthcare Services not only provided onboard surgeries. In addition, volunteer medical staff trained national surgeons and nurses; educated 88 Traditional Birth Attendants, who typically assist women in deliveries; performed 8,768 dental procedures; and taught 1,600 people about Community Health Education.

Caribbean Mercy in Puerto Castilla, Honduras

Until now, the Caribbean Mercy has never been able to operate on children. However, special anaesthetic equipment was donated to the Mercy Ship. Eighteen-month-old Cecilia was a history maker as she is the first child to have surgery onboard the Mercy Ship. Both of her eyes were operated on because Cecilia was born with strabismus (crossed eyes). The paediatric surgeries following Cecilia have also been medically successful – as well as life changing for the children. As surgeons remove cataracts and straighten children's eyes, doctors are simultaneously giving children the hope of new opportunities



Villages all over northern Honduras are learning how to purify their polluted water. Using their own local resources - a clear plastic bottle, sunlight, and some Moringa seeds - Hondurans are turning dirty river water into clean, safe, pathogen free drinking water. Mercy Ships teams are educating Hondurans about the bacteria and hazards that live in their water. They are responding to the message that the residing dangers in their river water is part of what is causing sickness in the communities. Ken Winebark, Agriculture Operations Manager, reports "We have connected instantly with the people, which gave us the credibility we needed to make what we had to say fly. It really has hit me - the hunger that these people have to learn . . . They have had so little education, but they come to the meetings with notebooks in hand ready to take notes – then they leave ready to implement what they learned. It is such a gratifying thing to see them go to work in improving their lives."

Helping the villages improve their water is not the only way Mercy Ships is reaching out to these communities. After the teaching sessions, the team offers to pray for any of the students who would appreciate prayer for them. Already in the Honduran outreach, Mercy Ships has reached out to many small villages and taught over 1,000 students how to improved their health.