

News from Malcolm Taylor – May 2005

Sabbatical

At the end of April I returned to Newcastle following my time away in Mexico and the US. This was a good time of refreshing and also of being able to work in the field once again. My first stop was to spend two months working along side the staff at YWAM's ministry in Mexico.



With an office location in San Diego and two operating locations in Tijuana and Ensenada, this is a growing ministry just south of the US/Mexico border on the Pacific coast. The main focuses of the two operating locations are their Homes of Hope and Mission Adventure programs. During my time there I was able to participate in both programs.

Homes of Hope...

Homes of Hope is a construction program to provide needy families a new home. This is very similar to what I used to do in Colombia, but on a much bigger scale. Last year they built over 240 homes. The ministry operates by inviting Church and business teams to come and spend a weekend building a house.



Most of my time was spent at the Ensenada location. During my first weekend, I helped a Church team of 20 people build a house in just a day and a half. It is a simple, 2 room, wooden framed house, but is a well refined design that is

easy to construct. The following weekend there were three teams on site to build 3 houses. One of the teams was a group of women doing this house build as a part of their leaders 60th birthday. I joined Jarod, one of the YWAM builders, and Frank, another staff member, with this team. After a long first day the walls were up and as the sunset we were able to lift the roof trusses. Needless to say it was us guys on the roof setting the trusses. The following day the roof got laid and the house finished.



The third house that I was directly involved with was at the Tijuana location. This was part of a YWAM promotion weekend with 5 houses being built at Tijuana and 6 at Ensenada. This was a long and tiring weekend, from driving the teams from San Diego to Mexico, helping with the house build, to assisting with the evening entertainment for the teams.

Mission Adventures...



The Mission Adventures program is a week to ten day youth camp during the Spring and Summer breaks. Teens from all over the US and Mexico come for teaching, training and ministry. In preparation for the upcoming Spring break I helped prepare the outside worship stage. This involved a complete rewire of the sound and lighting systems with a

professional system as opposed to the thrown together system that was there previously. My last week in Mexico was the first week of Spring break, so I was able to see the stage in use, including the presentation of a powerful version of the Passion Play.

It was sad to have to leave at the end of the two months, as I felt very much at home there. Some of the senior staff there are ex crew from my Caribbean Mercy days, so it was also good to meet up with old friends.

My next stop took me back to my old home in East Texas. This was supposed to be the rest stop in my Sabbatical. I did get to enjoy ten great days over Easter in San Antonio visiting all my friends there. I am thankful to all of them for their hospitality.

Caribbean Mercy...

After a few days in the Mercy Ships office, my boss sent me to visit the Caribbean Mercy in Mobile, Alabama. A ten-hour drive later and I find myself back onboard once again. This was a time in helping the Mercy Ships leadership in determining the extent of repairs needed during this yard period. We had known for some time that more steel work was needed in order to suitably repair this aging ship.

Currently the Caribbean Mercy is being taken out of service for 6 months in order to determine the future for her. Essentially she is a good ship, but is in need of a significant overhaul to keep her in service for another ten years. This now gives us the opportunity to establish a new vision for the ship and what programs and location she will be best suited for. With this information in hand a plan can be put together to bring the ship back into service.

Africa Mercy...

I am now back on the Africa Mercy. With funding available the shipyard is fully engaged in completing the ship. The yard is planning for a completion date of 31st October, but there is still a long way to go in order to reach that target. This will be a very busy time for us as we keep pace with the yard and ensure the work gets completed.



I want to thank all those that have given financial gifts or prayers of support during my sabbatical. Your support in being able to take this trip is greatly appreciated.

God Bless

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Praise Items

For my ministry in Mexico.
For the time of rest in San Antonio.
For all the gifts received in order that I could make this trip.
For the completion of work on the Africa Mercy.

Prayer Requests

For the YWAM ministries in Mexico.
For the planning process on the future of the Caribbean Mercy.
For the completion of the Africa Mercy

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.

Stop Press...

After two years of very little travel, 2005 is certainly making up for that. In July I will be travelling to East London in South Africa to attend the Anastasis dry-docking. I plan to be there for 3 weeks where I will be overseeing the installation of a new machinery alarm panel and carrying out some calculations on the main electrical switchboard for future expansion projects.