

News from Malcolm Taylor – April 2006

Dear Friends,

As most of you know for the last couple of years I have been overseeing large portions of the work in completing the Africa Mercy, the new hospital ship to continue the ministry of Mercy Ships in Africa. You will also be aware that this project has had its fair share of set backs, from the ship yard going bankrupt to financial troubles of our own. Currently we have financial backing which will enable us to complete the ship and send her to Africa.



For many months, A&P Tyne Ltd, the ship yard we are contracted with, have stated that they will have the ship finished by 31st March 2006. This was even confirmed three weeks ago when we asked if the ship would be ready to go to London for a major PR and fundraising event. With this information in hand, invites to major donors and other significant dignitaries was sent out. We also sent out invites to many of those on the UK Mercy Ships database, you may have received one of these invites. Ten days later A&P Tyne cancelled our trip to London as they stated that the ship would not be technically ready. This is obviously a big disappointment for us.

In recent days the shipyard have informed us that they still foresee a significant delay in being able to complete the ship in a timely manner. We ask that you join us in prayer that our senior leadership can do everything to



Propeller Wash from Engine Test

encourage the shipyard to make an extra special effort to complete the ship and enable her to begin her ministry to Africa.

Over the last few weeks we have seen a significant improvement in the looks of the ship. What were once empty spaces are now cabins and the train deck is rapidly looking like a hospital. The two new large generators have been run up to full load and the main engines have



Satellite Dish Being Installed

been turning the propellers for the first time in several years. I have nearly completed the bridge refit and have new radars, radio equipment, satellites, autopilot, electronic chart systems and echo sounders all up and running.

While this is a tiring and frustrating process for me, I greatly enjoy the technical challenge of completing the ship and all the design work that I am involved in. The endless battle with the yard is a draining process and one we all wish to see finished as soon as possible. Please pray with me to keep strong when faced with difficulties. Although we are all tired from the length of the project we are all excited about what the future holds for this ship once she arrives in Africa.



Artist Impression of the Africa Mercy on Location

God Bless

Malcolm Taylor

Mercy Ships News...

While Mercy Ships has a large medical focus, the following story shows how the ship's crew have taken on a large undertaking in helping to restore the water supply to a million people in the city of Monrovia, Liberia.

Mercy Ships Technical Crew Shares Expertise



Mercy Ships technical crew onboard the Anastasis have partnered with European Union engineers and employees from the White Plains Water Plant in Monrovia to make repairs to the city's water system. The team of experts has collaborated for more than a month to repair key parts of the plant in order to provide more running water to Monrovia.

Monrovia's water treatment plant lies 20km outside the city and draws water from the St. Paul River into the plant. When a Mercy Ships team first visited the plant before Christmas, only one of the plant's four pumps was marginally functional with significant leaks throughout the system. Ken Hilton, Fabrication Shop Manager on the Mercy Ship estimated the plant was operating at 25-30% capacity with the one 16-inch pipe to draw in water. By refitting the pump with new brass bushes made by the ship's machinist, David Mitchell, it is running well. The team is now repairing another pump as well as overhauling diesel engines.

The water plant lacks money for fuel and repairs because customers won't pay their bills, and customers refuse to pay because of inconsistent water flow caused by lack of fuel and



lack of maintenance. Mercy Ships Chief Engineer Richard Postles' goal for the work is to "break the chain,

by overhauling these pumps and also some valves to give them a better chance of maintaining continuous water supply." The repairs and resulting income will also supply money for the plant to purchase the necessary diesel for the water pumps.

Mercy Ships engineers are hopeful their efforts will pay off with more consistent water to the city. Hilton said the team's goal is "to come alongside the new President's water & sanitation people to help get things moving." So far, the partnership has done just that. Now water flows where it didn't before. It's a small but significant step for this city of more than a million people.

Praise Items

For the work completed so far on the Africa Mercy.
For the many donations of supplies to equip the Africa Mercy.
For the surgeries completed so far in Liberia by the Anastasis.
For the restoration of the water plant in Monrovia.

Prayer Requests

For the final stages of the Africa Mercy Project.
For good negotiations with ship yard management.
For successful sea trials.
For the future outreaches planned for 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 community, that we are called to serve, you may do so by cheque payable to Malcolm Taylor, and send it to me at the address above.

UK

For monthly giving and for single donations over £30, and if you are a UK taxpayer, you may do so by using a Gift Aid form through Stewardship Services. Please write to me at the address above for a Gift Aid form.

US

For a US tax receipt please send a 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.

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