News from Malcolm Taylor – Aug 2006

Dear Friends,

Africa Mercy…

With great anticipation the generators are put on line, main engines made ready and the lines cast off for the Africa Mercy's sea trial. Well nearly… this is an event we have been patiently waiting for the last several years to come to fruition. One of the reasons I have been delaying sending out this letter is that I have been hoping to say that the Africa Mercy has made its way out of the River Tyne, in Newcastle, and is preparing to set sail for ministry in Africa.

Although we live in developed country with a ship building industry, the shipyard whom we have a contract for the conversion of the Africa Mercy, have never been able to fully manage this project and once again their failings have resulted in the ship not being ready to sail. This has been one of the most disappointing factors in preparing the Africa Mercy for service.

Despite all the difficulties it is of great encouragement to see what were once open areas now completed and turned into a fully functioning first class hospital. What was once a train deck now houses six operating theatres, a 78 bed ward with intensive care facilities, CT scanners, X-ray machines and a whole host of medical equipment and services. Cabins for 480 crew have been painstakingly designed and built with the requirements of the crew being taken into consideration. Laundries, galleys, offices, IT and communication services have all been constructed. Behind all of this are new fire detection and alarm systems, sprinkler and fire mains, ventilation and heating ducts. The list goes on, but we truly believe that the labours of the last few years will reap rewards for many years to come as the ship starts its ministry.

As we desperately await the news on when the ship will be ready I have been offered a position with another mission's organisation. For some time I very much feel that the season of being away from field ministry has come to an end and that He is calling me back into the field. This has been confirmed in a number of 'words' encouraging me not to ignore what God has planned for me. While I greatly enjoy the technical challenges of my position within Mercy Ships I feel that this is the time for me to return to direct field ministry.

Mexico…

I have accepted the position of Field Coordinator on the leadership team for Youth With A Mission's (YWAM) Homes of Hope ministry in Mexico. I will be located at the YWAM Ensenada operating location where I will be responsible for coordinating the house construction ministry.

This is the same ministry that I visited in Feb/March 2005 where I was impressed at ministry and programs that they operated. At YWAM Ensenada they operate the Discipleship Training School (the YWAM mission's entry program)

providing Christian teaching and missions training. The 10 day Missions Adventures program runs during the school spring and summer breaks providing a life changing experience for thousands of young people. The Homes of Hope ministry aims to provide a simple home to over 250 families each year in the Mexican cities of Tijuana and Ensenada. These homes are built by teams involving over 6000 volunteers each year. Participants of the Discipleship Training Schools and the Missions Adventure programs also have the opportunity to build a home.

My role will be that of coordinator for the Homes of Hope program. I will be responsible for coordinating all the visiting teams and the construction process for over 150 homes annually within the Ensenada area. With over 3000

participants, I hope to provide a missions experience that brings a fulfilling time for the teams, along side the Christian message of a loving God to the recipients of a new home. Typically the ministry builds 3 to 4 homes each weekend, but on the 'Go Big' events as many as 13 homes will be constructed in just 2 days!!! This new job will be an exciting challenge in my return to field ministry providing hope to those less fortunate than ourselves. I am currently planning to fly to the US on the 21st August in preparation to start the autumn house building season.

It is however my intention to fulfil my commitment to Mercy Ships to see the Africa Mercy sail and I anticipate returning to the UK to see the ship through its sea trials. This will be a good conclusion to my work here as I hand over the ship to the operating crew, knowing that she will be sailing to Africa to start her ministry very soon.

With more than 10 years of service with Mercy Ships, this is a decision I have not taken lightly but one that I do feel will ultimately benefit me in my long term calling to serve the Lord in providing help to those less fortunate than ourselves. Over these next few weeks I ask for your prayers as I start the process of completing my work here and preparing the logistics of moving to Mexico.

Like Mercy Ships, YWAM is also a volunteer based ministry, with each of its staff members being responsible to raise their own financial support. I am deeply indebted to those who support my ministry with financial gifts. Along with this newsletter is a personal brochure, plus details on how you can support my ministry. For those of you who are regular financial supporters there will be a personal letter explaining any action you may need to take, if any, as a result of my new position. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

God Bless

Malcolm Taylor

Praise Items

For all the work completed on the Africa Mercy.
For the successful completion of engine and equipment trials prior to taking the ship out on sea trials.
For the volunteers and crew who I have served with at Mercy Ships.
For the 10 years of service I have had with Mercy Ships.

Prayer Requests

For the completion of sea trials of the Africa Mercy.
For the preparation of the Africa Mercy's start of service to the poor.
For my arrival in Mexico and the start of my new position.
For the families and people I will be in contact with in Mexico.

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