



The year has been a full one—with laughter, with hard work, with difficulty, with adventure. The nations in which I've worked have come alive in my life with sights, sounds, and smells that will forever speak to me in memories of the people we have healed and given hope. In ways large and small, it's been driven home to me over and over again that the only thing really worth living for—and I mean throwing your whole life into, not just getting by under a cold, gray daily cloud of wishing there were something more—is being recklessly loved by an extravagant, passionate God, and sharing that love with others. (Pick up a copy of Brennan Manning's warmly written book "The Ragamuffin Gospel" this Christmas, for example, for a simple and stunning redistillation of life.) This year, I've been privileged to witness that kind of love in action—operating on children's club feet, squeezing orphans in bear hugs, being friends to the same kind of outcasts Jesus spent most of his time with on earth. The crew of the Caribbean Mercy does all these things, and I've seen hope transform lives in the real world through the simple fact of God's love. Starvation and violence and corruption and disease aren't going to go away, but they don't have to get the final word. Thank you for standing up—through prayer, by supporting me, in every way—for the people I meet out here who have no one else to stand up for them. *You are making a difference.*

Merry Christmas.

Jeremy



To support me: make check out to "Mercy Ships," **include a Post-It note with my name**, & mail to PO Box 2020, Garden Valley TX 75771.