

# From Ship to Shore...

December 2002



Hi all!

The second month of my time with the Caribbean Mercy has really flown by! I can't believe that it is Christmastime already! Since last month the ship has traveled to Wilmington, NC and Gulfport, MS. Before I came to the ship, I wondered if I would get seasick; the answer is YES! We had a very rough sail from Baltimore to Wilmington, and almost the entire crew got sick. We were thankful that it only was a 2-day sail! The trip to Gulfport was much more peaceful.

Our time in Wilmington, though short, was wonderful. A bunch of students from the DTS got to know many of the homeless of the city. I met one couple in particular, Greg and Judy, who I know I will never forget. They truly lived their lives "day by day"; they never knew what would come the next day, so they lived that one to the fullest. Their faith astonished me. Even though they have very few worldly possessions, they are bringing up their treasures in heaven! I was so blessed to meet them.

We are all very much looking forward to our outreach in the Dominican Republic, starting in less than a month. We have been preparing by learning Spanish as a group and setting aside times to pray together for our time on outreach. So many people have been telling us that the most important thing a missions team can do is maintain unity among the team by really loving one another. That can definitely be a struggle, especially when we see each other constantly in very tight living conditions! We found out recently that our team of 16 people will not be staying right with the ship for outreach. Instead, we will be traveling throughout the country, partnering with the local churches to share Jesus' love with the people. Mercy Ships is very conscious to form lasting relationships with the local churches so that when the ship leaves, the ministry does not end.

I'd like to ask you to please continue to pray for our preparation for the outreach, especially for unity among our team so that we can be more effective in the Dominican Republic.

It will be very strange to spend Christmas down here in Mississippi! It will be a "white Christmas", but only because we are right next to a white, sandy beach! I hope that you are having a peaceful time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

God bless,  
Katie