

From Ship to Shore...

January 2003



Hola!

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas! I had planned on being in Mississippi for Christmas, but was called home unexpectedly because of my grandfather's death. Despite the circumstances, it was good to be home for Christmas. On New Year's Day, I went waterskiing! While it was warmer than waterskiing in New York on New Year's, it was still pretty chilly with wetsuits. I've included some pictures below.

I arrived in the Dominican Republic a few days ago. The ship can't sail with as many as it can sleep, so my DTS had to fly down. After leaving Mississippi, flying to Florida, "sleeping" in the airport, and flying to Puerto Rico, we finally arrived in the DR. I have never been so glued to an airplane window as when we flew over the country. The Dominican Republic is such a beautiful country. Even though the sun is incredibly strong all year round (it has been in the 90's each day), the plants and trees are the brightest green I have ever seen. The people are so open and friendly. The Latin American culture is very relaxed. After arriving, the ship wouldn't arrive for the next four days, so we all stayed in a church in the city of Santiago. We met some wonderful people in the city, including the families of the church and some American and Canadian missionaries. Our team was able to work with children from a Compassion International program. I was able to teach the card game Go Fish to a group of the children, using my very limited Spanish. They were all very willing to teach us Spanish words (and laugh at us as we tried to pronounce them!).

I am now back on the ship. In two days, though, our team will be moving off the ship to make room for all of the new medical volunteers. We'll be staying in a house nearby for two weeks until the DTS outreach will begin. That outreach will go through all of February and the beginning of March. People are referring to our outreach as the Traveling DTS. We'll be starting out in the desert near the Haitian border working with a church planting team. Maybe I'll get to brush up on my 6 years of French! Then we'll pack up and go to central DR to Jarabacoa in the mountains. There is a YWAM (the original parent ministry of Mercy Ships) base there that we will be working with. Finally we'll travel up closer to the ship on the Northern Shore into a place called Sosua.

Thank you all so much for your continued support. I am so encouraged to know that I have so many people praying for me as I am away. Please continue to pray for my team's safety as we travel so much in the coming weeks. Also that we would be sensitive to the needs of people that we meet here. It is so overwhelming to see so much

poverty and not be able to make a huge difference. One person at a time though, right? Also please pray for the ship's main outreach – the medical services. They are starting optical and dental surgeries in the end of January.

While I will be out of touch until the beginning of March (because of traveling), I will be sure to update you all when I get back from outreach!

God bless,
Katie

Waterskiing by the ship



The Caribbean Mercy in Gulfport, Mississippi