

# From Ship to Shore...

May 2003



Hi everyone!

Wow, the past month certainly has flown by! That probably has a lot to do with the 8 flights I have taken since the beginning of April! The *Caribbean Mercy* left the Dominican Republic after 3 months of outreach in the middle of April, and in that transition time I came home for a 2-week visit. After 6 flights (I saw Puerto Rico and most of the East Coast of the US), an overnight layover in Florida, and a suitcase broken underneath the plane, I finally made it back to chilly Albany! It was so good to be home to see so many of you during that time, as well as take some “down time” before heading back to the ship. I was so encouraged by the visits I had with many of you. I did feel ready to go back to the ship, though, and I’m finding that after 7 months of being here it’s starting to feel a bit more like home.

The ship is on a 3-month/3-month cycle, meaning that we spend 3 months in outreach in Central America, and then return to the US for 3 months of technical work and a time to recruit volunteers and get supplies for the next outreach. It is also a great time for the crew to “recharge our batteries” for the next outreach. We are currently docked in Morehead City, North Carolina, just ending a month of maintenance on the ship. We will spend the next 2 months along the East Coast, and then head to Belize for the next outreach phase.



My job on the ship for the remainder of our time in the US this summer will be in the Computer Department. I am mostly doing support for the business computers onboard. We received a donation of 6 new computers last week, and it was my job to build them and install all of the software. I had never built a computer before, but so far they seem to be working fine! God has been teaching me so much through that job, not only about computers but also about how to be patient and humble. Even missionaries can be quite demanding when their Internet connection goes down, and often the Computer Department (aka. myself and one other person) gets called at funny hours to fix the problem 😊 The most fun job assignment I’ve had so far was to fix the antenna that allows the ship to have outside contact while sailing. “Not a problem,” I thought...until I discovered that the antenna sits on top of the main mast of the ship! Well, up I went (in full safety gear, don’t worry Mom)! I even hung out up there a few extra minutes to enjoy the beautiful view of the two neighboring towns. It was quite an experience!

Even though we are not technically in outreach phase, there are still plenty of opportunities to build relationships in the ports we stay in. I have definitely gotten a huge taste of Southern hospitality here in North Carolina! I have visited around 10 homes of families I have met in this area, and it has been so special. I have made some particularly close friends here from South Africa, and they are even thinking of coming and serving with Mercy Ships for a few months this summer!

Thank you again for your prayers. During my visit home recently I was reminded of how important it is for missionaries to have a solid group of people back home. After all, without the local church, there would be no missionaries to “send out”. I am so blessed to have such wonderful friends and family. Please keep the *Caribbean Mercy* in prayer as the leadership onboard is going through some major changes. Our Captain and his family, who have been onboard for 9 years, are leaving the ship in the end of this month, and our Director and his wife come to the end of their commitment with the ship in just another month. God has sent some incredible people to take these positions, but it is a big change for us all.

The ship will be coming into Boston this summer from June 25<sup>th</sup>-July 14<sup>th</sup>, and anyone is welcome to come out and visit! I would love for you all to see the ship and meet the people I get to work alongside of. If you'd like to come out, send me an email anytime!



In Christ,  
Katie