

From Ship to Shore... June 2003



Greetings from chilly Canada!

It is hard to believe that I am writing my June newsletter with the temperature averaging in the 40's here in Halifax, Nova Scotia! The people here have certainly made up for the weather though, with the warm greetings we have received. Hopefully the fog will lift and we'll get to see what the sun looks like in Canada before sailing for Boston next week!

I have been wearing a few different hats in the past month. Along with my duties in the computer department, I have also been helping out the deck department recently (the department that keeps the "ship" side of Mercy Ships going). We have been particularly short on deckhands in the past 2 months, which are necessary for maintaining the ship's repairs as well as standing security watches during the sails and while in port. I volunteered to help out with watches since I have the necessary qualification – a Basic Safety Training course with firefighting and sea survival training. Since we do watches around the clock, the hours have been a bit



challenging, but I have certainly become more aware of what it takes to keep a ship running safely. I even got to "drive" during the sail to Halifax! I was at the helm for about 6 hours of incredibly thick fog.

I have enrolled in a program onboard called the Alpha Course. It is a widely popular program consisting of a series of videos that address key issues in the Christian faith. Several members onboard are going through the course with the intention of leading an Alpha Course in one of the upcoming outreaches in Central America. The setting of the course is designed to be a safe place for people who are seeking answers about Jesus to come and ask. We realize that often people are afraid to ask some basic, but very common questions about Christianity, and want to offer a place where those questions will be welcomed and discussed openly, looking to the Bible for answers. We hope to use this as an evangelistic tool in Belize this year as well as outreaches further into the future.

A few days before the ship leaves Halifax, we will be participating in a very large worship event right on the dock next to the ship called The Edge. Together with several well-known worship bands from Canada and the Northeast, we will be inviting the entire community of Halifax to come to this event. Along with the music, we will also be

performing dramas and speakers will address different topics. We are praying for good weather so that many people will come out!

This fall I will be shifting directions with my job onboard the ship. As I mentioned in one of my previous newsletters, I was offered a position working on staff with the Discipleship Training School (DTS). I went through the previous DTS onboard, which lasted for 5 months (3 months of lecture, 2 months of outreach). My main duties will be mentoring the students as well as leading small groups for the first half of the school, and then leading teams in missions trips in Central America for the last half of the school. After many months of prayer about this, I am excited about taking on this new role. I think it is a situation where the gifts God has given me will be used well, and where I will be challenged and stretched – especially in leading teams of 15 students in foreign countries!! I would like to ask you to pray for me as I prepare to take that position this fall. I want to rely on God’s strength as I go into some unfamiliar territory!

Thank you so much for continuing to pray as I am away from you. I keep all of you in my prayers, and am thankful for you as Paul wrote to the Philippians...

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all of my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy...” (Phil 1:3-4)

Love,
Katie

