

# From Ship to Shore...

July 2003



Dear family and friends,

Another month, and therefore another update! I have spent the past 3 weeks in Boston, only three hours from home. I thought that perhaps I would have the opportunity to catch a bus home for a weekend, but with all of the visitors that I have had come to the ship, I didn't get the chance! I took some time to reflect tonight on my experiences in Boston, and realized that I had 25 people come to visit.



Thank you so much to all of you who were able to come out; I am so encouraged (and exhausted!) by the time we spent together ☺

It is hard for me to believe that after a short 10-day stop for loading supplies in Florida next week, we will be back in outreach mode in Belize! I wanted to tell you all a little bit of what I know

of the country, so we can know best how to pray for the people there. Belize is located in Central America just below the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, to the east of Guatemala. Like most Caribbean and Central American

countries, there exists a huge dichotomy between the beautifully preserved nature in some areas and the neglected, poverty-stricken regions. Belize just received its independence from Britain in 1981, and the people often suffer as its new government (a parliamentary democracy) defines itself.

Most Belizeans will call themselves Christians, but further research into the country's spiritual history reveals long-standing traditions in paganism and black magic. These two traditions in particular have found their way into Christianity and a superstitious "Christianity" has resulted. While Mercy Ships has never promoted pushing Western Judeo-Christian culture onto other people groups, we do believe in introducing people to the Truth in appropriate ways (usually by living our lives transparently before others, and then openly answering questions when they are asked). Please pray that we would be particularly sensitive in speaking with the people from this nation, and exercise appropriateness in situations.



On a personal note, I look forward to potentially co-leading an Alpha Course (an introduction to Christianity) in Belize. This course is designed to be a safe setting in which people can ask questions and have discussions. Please pray that the details would come together, and that many people from the local communities would attend.

I also wanted to thank you so much for your support, both prayerfully and financially. I am continually reminded in my prayers of God's provision through so many of you. Please keep my financial situation in prayer, and that I would continue to turn to Him as my Provider.

May God richly bless you,

Katie