

# From Ship to Shore...

## October 2003



Hi everyone!

I am writing this to you sitting in an airport in Belize, just starting out on my 14 hour journey home to visit family and friends for 2 weeks before rejoining the *Caribbean Mercy* in Jacksonville, Florida. That's right, another outreach has come to an end. Our 3 months in Dangriga, Belize were incredible. The ship's usual outreach programs ran very well. God chose to heal many Belizeans through our optical, dental, and orthopedic teams. The most common surgeries done onboard are the removal of severe cataracts which have rendered the patient literally blind. My favorite stories are of the day after the surgery, when a patient's eye patch is removed and he "tries out his new eyes" for the first time. So many times the patients come in skeptical and fearful of the situation, and don't expect to notice a large change in their eyesight when the patch is removed. One man named Modesto was particularly skeptical of the success of the surgery before his patch was removed. He didn't say much prior to his surgery, except that he didn't have very high hopes for much of a difference in his ability to see. However, when his patch was removed his entire countenance changed. A huge grin broke out over his face as he looked at the world around him with new eyes. It was amazing to see what a transformation God brought to this man, both physically and emotionally.



with Mercy Ships, if you have a desire to learn, someone will be willing to teach you! I am so thankful for those months during which I picked up many new skills with computers.

On a personal note, I am going through a large transition with my job on the ship. For the past six months I have been serving in the computer department, providing support for the 80 computers we have onboard in order to maintain our communication with the outside world for business. I was amused going into that position last Spring, as I have had no formal computer training. However, like many things

Just this past week, I switched over to working as a leader with the 5-month long Discipleship Training School (DTS) onboard. As many of you remember, I started out my time with the *Caribbean Mercy* as a student in this intensive training program. My responsibilities will consist of mentoring the students for the first few months as they go through the lecture phase of the school, as well as leading a small group and planning the outreach. The last half of the school will be spent on outreach in Honduras, doing various types of service projects and building relationships in the communities we visit. Please join me in praying for the students as they prepare for the DTS, which starts in mid-November. It is such a unique time that is set apart for God and helping others. The purpose of a DTS in a young person's life is stated "To know God and make Him known."

I'd also like to ask you to pray for my financial situation. As my monthly support has declined recently, I will be looking to raise about \$150 more monthly. I know that so many of you have helped me out in this area, for which I am so grateful! Please pray that I would continue to turn to the Lord for this provision.

As I said earlier, I am going to be home for a few weeks, and of course would love to see everyone I can! I will be home through the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, so please get in touch with me if you will have time to visit. Thank you so much to all of you for your prayers and letters of encouragement. I continue to remember you in my prayers as well!



God's Peace,

Katie