

# From Ship to Shore...

December 2003



Merry Christmas!

I write this newsletter from a ship full of people from 20 different nations, each with his or her own traditions of celebrating Christmas. My Ghanaian friends typically celebrate the birth of Jesus by bringing gifts to a “Christmas Room” centered around a palm tree, staying up all night on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The couple onboard from Brazil isn’t convinced it’s Christmas until they have had their Rabanada bread, a cinnamon-flavored pastry. And of course our Europeans started the season a few weeks ago with St. Nicholas Day. My “home” sure is an interesting place this time of year! I, however, will be celebrating with my family this year. I leave for the airport at 4:15 tomorrow morning for a quick 4-day trip home for Christmas. I look forward to the somewhat strange, yet familiar traditions my family does each year ☺

The missions school (Discipleship Training School) I am on staff with is going very well. The sixteen students continue to grow in the Lord as they prepare for the 6 week outreach in Honduras. The students seem to be more than willing to allow Him to do whatever He desires through them; they are learning humility from living in such close community, love from realizing more of God’s love for them, and servanthood from watching the example of those around them. Please pray for their continued growth and maturity in their faith.



*Getting to know some of the  
DTS students*

The DTS has an outreach week coming up next week, during which we will participate with various organizations within Gulfport (in Mississippi, where we are currently docked). We will spend one day in a nursing home, visiting with people and encouraging those who may not have family visiting for Christmas. We will also partner up with the Salvation Army and do a variety of projects, such as painting and doing repairs on their facilities. Finally, our group will work with a local church doing some relational evangelism in Gulfport.

On a personal note, I am really looking forward to getting to Honduras in February. I have found that the desire to work in the foreign missions field has grown as I have been working in Central America for the past year. Please pray for future direction in this area; that I would be discerning on what God wants for me, especially after the summer of 2004 (I am committed to serving with Mercy Ships at least until that point).

Again, thank you all for your continued prayers. May you be richly blessed this Christmas season!

Love in Christ,

Katie

*For the us a child is born ,to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.                      Isaiah 9:6*