

From Ship to Shore...

April 2004



Hola amigos!

Here I am, back on the ship after a 7 week outreach leading the Discipleship Training School in Honduras. About halfway through the outreach we received word from the ship that its original plan, which was to meet us in Honduras mid-March, was not going to come

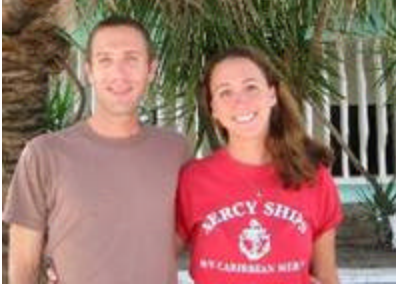


through. The ship had been in dry-dock in Mobile, Alabama, and they had encountered several more areas of the ship needing repairs (read: holes in the hull) than they had expected. So, here I am, back in Mobile, a place I honestly never expected to see again! The plan from here is to sail next week down to Honduras, after all of the cabins have been put back together. I think that after being delayed for 6 weeks, the crew is ready to get there and get started on our outreach phase through July!

The DTS outreach went very well. Thanks to all of you who were praying for us, especially for our health and safety. We had no real medical emergencies, just your typical missions trip intestinal distress! It was a wonderful experience leading this group of 16 students, living in the small town of Puerto Castilla, Honduras. The students did a number of projects and programs, including an entire afternoon of teachings and testimonies about physical and emotional consequences of being in unhealthy relationships.

Honduras accounts for 17% of the total population in Central America, but 60% of its HIV cases...needless to say, this is an area that we prayed for throughout the entire outreach. We had a turnout of over 60 teenagers for that program – God is certainly reforming this area of society through some of the younger generations in Honduras! But of course, our focus was never on the projects we would do, or the programs we could put on. Our reason for being there was forming relationships with people, hoping to encourage them to draw nearer to the Lord. The night that we had to leave Puerto Castilla, there were many tears - from our team and the people we bonded so closely with. It will be wonderful for me to sail into that town once again!





Speaking of relationships...after 1 ½ years of working together on the ship and building a close relationship, Jeremy Albers and I have decided to get married. We got engaged down in Honduras, about two months ago (Jeremy was also on staff with the DTS). It's true what they say about community living and loving your neighbor – take it too far and look what happens ☺ We are planning to marry in the late fall.

My commitment with the ship ends this summer, so I plan on waving goodbye to the Caribbean Mercy in the end of June, after almost 2 years of service with them. I will be working in the Albany area for the summer and most of the fall. Looking ahead though, both Jeremy and I cherish the thought of returning to work with one of the ships in the future.

Again, thank you all for your continued prayers and support. Please pray for the ship's safety as we travel down to Honduras in a few days. Also, please pray that although our time in Puerto Castilla is shortened by 6 weeks, we would still work effectively with the churches there. Thanks so much for standing behind me – you *are* making a difference!

Katie