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MERCY SHIPS - DECEMBER 2001

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Paul's Newsletter

A Summer to Remember

Well, here it is almost Christmas and another year gone by. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the things I did this summer and what is in store for my future with Mercy Ships.

I had worked for more than four years on the Caribbean Mercy as the IT Systems Manager, and during this time I experienced many lives being changed all over the world, so when I was asked to work for a summer in Texas, I expected a difficult transition. However, much to my surprise, I came to realize that if it were not for these wonderful people working behind the scenes in the middle of east Texas, that the ministry of Mercy Ships would not be possible. I was able to work with the IT (computer) Department in the user services area and receive some training also. It is always amazing to get prepared for something to do but you are not sure what that is yet! I was able to meet many different people from around the world and build many friendships along the way. While I was in Texas I was able to get the much needed rest that working on a ship often keeps you from getting. While I was in Texas, I spoke with the guys that work in a department called Marine Operations, these are the guys that make sure the ships in the fleet are maintained, supported, and comply with current safety and international shipping regulations. They also are responsible for any upgrades or repairs that need to take place. With all the Technical knowledge and experience that I have, it is no wonder that they have asked me to come work with them. Starting December 28th this year, I will officially be working for Marine Operations, and my first assignment will be replacing the old Fire Alarm Panel on the Caribbean Mercy. I will be there until April 22nd, then on to Texas for a few months and then I will go to Rotterdam to repair the PA system on the Anastasis in July.



Caribbean Mercy at Sunrise in La Union, El Salvador.

Something else of interest, is that while I was home last April, I met up with a friend who had the same vision as me to lead a team from the local college to an outreach during spring break. We have worked out some of the details and continue to workout more of them. The trip would be scheduled for March 2002 and we will be taking a small team down to work along side Mercy Ships in Nicaragua for one week. Mercy Ships Nicaragua continues to build houses for people left homeless from Hurricane Mitch in 1998, as well as many other community development programs including well drilling and agriculture.

Mercy Ships visits Pensacola

From November 15th to December 4th, I was privileged to have the Caribbean Mercy visit my home town, I actually came to Pensacola several months in advance to work with a team of people to prepare the way for the ship's arrival. I am thankful for this time at home and connecting with many people from my church. I actually counted about 150 people who came from the church to see the ship (my home for the last 4 and a half years). This included about 100 people who showed up for the special tour I offered to my church. I have learned that it is not just about raising money to give someone medical care in a poor country, but it is also about the people who have sacrificed their lives to provide these services for free. I was especially happy to see my church get involved with being a blessing to the crew, everything from a free meal at the church to financial aide to help the families on the ship provide a Christmas for their children. Thank you Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church! It makes me proud to be part of such a special church.

Thank you all for everything
Blessings always

Paul - tonettip@mercyships.org

PS - The best way to support me is to keep me in your prayers, however if you feel lead to, you may send a contribution for a tax deductible receipt to:
Mercy Ships, PO Box 2020, Lindale, Texas 75771
Make the check out to Mercy Ships with a note attached to it saying (support for missionary Paul Tonetti)

Special points of interest:

- ? Pray for the transition for me from the Computer Department to Marine Operations
- ? Pray for the upcoming Dry Dock for the Caribbean Mercy. (financially and safety)
- ? Pray for the upcoming Spring Break trip
- ? Pray for staffing needs for Mercy Ships.

<http://Caribbean-Mercy.org/paul>