

August 2005 Activities Report

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Greetings and thanks to you for your invaluable interest, love, support, friendships and prayers!

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF

The Friend Ships base in Lake Charles, Louisiana is strategically placed to launch an effective response to the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. Lake Charles is west of where the hurricane made landfall and our base suffered no ill effects. However, the State of Louisiana is in turmoil. Hundreds of thousands of displaced people from New Orleans and the surrounding area have poured into Lake Charles, Baton Rouge and all other Louisiana communities. Friend Ships is working on the west bank of the Mississippi River, ten minutes from downtown New Orleans in an area that suffered heavy hurricane damage. For several days all roads into the area were closed. On September 5th, we sailed with our Relief Ship *Hope* from Lake Charles, arriving at the site the



Relief Ship HOPE

morning of Thursday, September 8th. The ship was loaded with food, water, clothing, personal care items, roofing materials and baby items along with a mobile kitchen, mobile water

purification unit and disaster response set-up. The crew began to work immediately to discharge the cargo and set up a base of operations, distributing commodities, serving food and repairing roofs as well as providing spiritual support to victims. On Monday August 12th, a second ship, *Mersea* set sail as well. In addition to carrying supplies and relief personnel, the two ships can now provide berthing for 120 people who are working at the disaster site in various capacities, including our own crew and relief staff.

At this time of going to print, hundreds of meals are being cooked and distributed each day by two cook kitchens on site, and six teams of volunteers are going into the community door to door. These teams fix roofs, help with yard work and assess needs. The needed supplies are then collected from the warehouse and delivered to the people. We are so blessed to be able to help in this way.

Friend Ships helicopter, *Eagle One*, a 206 Bell Jet, flew to New Orleans for two consecutive days immediately following the disaster to assess the situation and



Eagle One landing aboard Hope.
Background: Downtown New Orleans

determine how our organization could most effectively take action. The helicopter is on site now, working from the ship and returning to Port Mercy as needed. We received another incredible blessing this week with the installation of an antenna on the vessel *Hope*. This is an official radio broadcast station with a 25 mile radius and fully licensed by the FCC. *Radio Hope* is transmitting important emergency information, news, messages from public officials, encouraging music, and messages of hope.



Preparing meals in mobile kitchen

Our current needs are for financial support to purchase diesel fuel for the ships, jet fuel for the helicopter and various other expenditures; for commodities, food, hygiene supplies, linens,

lumber, tin, roofing nails, hammers, new underwear and socks, flashlights, batteries, diapers and Bibles. We can also use teams of people to work, as space aboard ship permits.



Delivering meals door to door.

PORT MERCY LAKE CHARLES, LA.



Prior to Hurricane Katrina, we received many truckloads of beautiful cargo for upcoming missions to Israel and Haiti. In these photos you can see the holds of *Spirit of Grace* filling up with furniture, clothing and other needed supplies.



Recently we made a commitment to make a return mission to the nation of Haiti and we began the initial planning. The

voyage will be later this year. We'll take humanitarian aid and our outreach team that will provide medical care, meals and a variety of other services. We'll work once again in coordination with Trinity Broadcasting Network and Grace International of Haiti.

The public relations department prepared for and attended an Emergency Medical Services symposium and "Enter His Gates", a conference sponsored by the Christian Allies Caucus, the Battalion of Deborah and Covenant Alliances. Friend Ships was blessed to be able to participate in this event. We were interviewed by Charisma and People Magazine this month, appeared on TBN's Behind the Scenes and on local Lake Charles radio and television. Our PR team spoke to groups of seniors and Sunday school classes. We hosted an evening meeting with special friends in the Lake Charles community who are helping us in various ways and discussed ways to enhance our efforts to work together.

We have a great need to increase the number of long term crew on our team and we have been especially blessed this month in our efforts to get the word out. Calvary Satellite Network is going to begin to run recruiting spots for us on their large network of radio stations and Trinity Broadcasting Network is producing and will air a reoccurring public service spot for us on their giant network around the world to tell people of the opportunities to serve with us. AND we have even been offered billboard space here in our local community, free of charge!

ROATAN /HONDURAS

The team in Roatán continues to prepare for the second level session of Art School training and for church conferences we will be hosting at "The Village" on a

regular basis. We continue with dance classes for youth and the program of roofing homes, schools and churches. In the last three months we have made and installed 48 roof tarps for houses in the local communities. We now have a team of faithful local men who have offered their time to assist this outreach. What a blessing to have strong willing men in the Roatán community to help move, make and fit the vinyl tarps. These men are learning a new skill and also growing in the Lord while they show God's love as they help people in need.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The faithful team in Los Angeles continues to collect and distribute food throughout the local community. They have assembled many truckloads of cargo in order to response to Hurricane Katrina and in addition, prepared supplies they have collected (blankets, linens, food and clothing) to begin trucking it to Port Mercy for other upcoming missions.

Thank you, friends, for supporting the work here at Friend Ships in so many important ways. We couldn't do it without you.

"When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:13

Thank you for inviting the poor and needy to your banquet.



This month we would like to thank all the companies and churches and individuals who have so graciously given to us that we might assist people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

If you would like to be involved with supporting Friend Ships programs, we have ongoing needs for:

Crew - long and short term individuals and teams.

Finances - to support general operations and/or the Mission to Israel or Haiti or our Hurricane Katrina response.

Cargo - see website or request a brochure on how you can pack boxes of supplies to be shipped.

Prayer - Join "Special Forces", our team of prayer warriors