

# Friend Ships November 2005 Activities Report

FRIEND SHIPS at PORT MERCY, 1019 North First Avenue, Lake Charles, LA 70601  
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## PORT MERCY/ Lake Charles, Louisiana



Here at the Friend Ships home base, we have continued our response to Hurricane Rita by providing hot meals and commodities to those in need. Early this month, we concluded our work sending teams to homes that needed help with tarping their roofs and clearing away trees. Some of the local churches in town have taken over the roof repair projects and we are able to supply the tarp.



Now that Lake Charles is well on the way to recovery, we also felt it was time to end our emergency radio station broadcast from the ship *Spirit*. We are concentrating on repairing Port Mercy which received rather extensive damage from the hurricane. We are organizing cargo for upcoming missions and preparing equipment for future activities. The missions to Israel and Haiti will once again be front and center.

In mid November, we brought ships *Mersea* and *Hope* home from the New Orleans area after ten weeks of disaster response. These vessels served so

well as a base of relief operations and to house the hundreds of volunteers who provided hot meals, distributed needed commodities, tarped roofs, cut away trees, broadcast emergency messages on "*Radio Hope*" and most importantly of all, offered spiritual support to thousands of hurricane victims. The outreach in downtown New Orleans continues in the hands of other ministries and we plan to be active there again in the spring for an event we call "The Saints Go Marching In". We will tell you more about this as plans develop.

The first week of November, in response to Hurricane Wilma making landfall in South Florida, we sent a team, a semi truck and two vending cook carts to Belle Glade where we provided thousands of hot meals to a community of migrant workers until power was restored. In addition, we home delivered meals to elderly people and others who could not visit the feeding site.

Also in response to Hurricane Wilma, we put out a request to the government of Cuba to be allowed to bring the churches there a ship load of tarp so that they could help the communities mend their damages following the hurricane. We await their response and will keep you posted.



The powerful eye of Hurricane Wilma also passed closely by the Honduran Island of Roatán in the Bay Islands, the location of "Friend Ships Village" just before making landfall in Mexico. The island had 150 mile winds and suffered severe wind and rain damage. Many homes and businesses were damaged. Our staff distributed tarp for roof repairs and worked with a team of local volunteers who patched roofs in Punta Gorda, a village on the south end of the island. They braced for Hurricane Beta

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that made landfall in Nicaragua but fortunately, were spared its wrath.

During the period of response to these three vicious hurricanes, the Lord has blessed us by allowing us to comfort and uplift people, to help them and tell them about our great and loving God. He has also provided us with new equipment to allow us to make next year's response even better than this year. Either by a donation of equipment, or finances for equipment we have added two semi tractors to the fleet, a forty foot medical truck, three new freezer trailers, a roll-back truck (that allows us to pick up and deposit containers without need for a crane), a beautiful bus, two vending cook carts, a large "smoker" barbeque and many, many other items. One of the semi tractors will become a

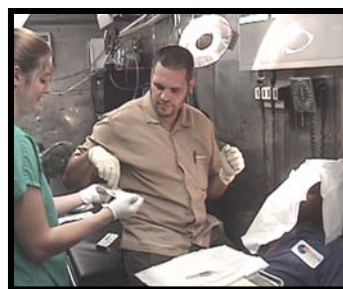


mobile medical unit and we have also obtained three new shipping containers that will be converted to medical procedure containers for the field. One of the new semi tractors we mentioned last month, was formerly a movie truck and so has two 100 KW generators mounted behind the cab of the tractor and a trailer equipped with electrical outlets and other support

that will prove invaluable to our work on the field. We were blessed to obtain a mobile broadband unit and a mobile satellite television receiver aboard *MV HOPE* so that we can stay informed and in contact with the world while on our missions. The internet system unit allows us to help people find lost loved ones and research where to receive aid.

**Disaster Response Training Session 2006:** If your church is interested in preparing to be an effective part of our disaster relief team for the hurricane season of 2006, we will be offering a two week training session "Exercise Able Servant" in early June. You may send a team leader who will be

trained and sent back ready to prepare the others in your church who would like to be ready, willing and able to respond next season. We plan to offer training and hands on experience here in the Lake Charles community. We will teach the basics of our response-food service, house to house ministry, commodity distribution, roofing work, chain saw work and how to integrate effective evangelism and spiritual encouragement into these activities. There is no cost and your representative will be provided with a bunk aboard ship and meals. There is limited availability so please register early. You can register to receive an application and notification of the dates, by emailing [disasterteams@friendships.org](mailto:disasterteams@friendships.org), or call or write to us.



Friend Ships Medical Director Dr. Ty Hopkins is currently on a medical mission in Nepal, with *Arise Medical Missions*. After his trip to Nepal, Dr. Ty will join *Mercy and Truth* on a medical outreach to northern Africa where they have been invited to provide healthcare to a minority community in Sudan.

Thank you friends for your overwhelming support! We could not do this without you. Please take joy in all that Friend Ships is able to accomplish because as our support team, these are your accomplishments too. We love you!

*Proverbs 22: 9" ...a generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor"*

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.

**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.