

Friend Ships August 2011 Activities Report

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Dear Friend Ships Family:

This month we have greeted a new wonderful group of first year Sea Hawks and welcomed back our 2nd, 3rd and 4th year Sea Hawks as leaders. One team left for Los Angeles to complete repairs on Pearl and Divine Wind for their November sail to Central America and back to Port Mercy. Another team departed for our base in Roatán, Honduras to prepare for the mission there later this year. A third team headed to Nashville to disassemble and retrieve warehousing that we'll reassemble at Port Mercy and use to store truckloads of relief goods and equipment.

We received many wonderful product donations this month including truckloads of sporting equipment that will allow us to set up softball as well as soccer games at the field we have established at our facility in Roatán. We also got a wonderful new floating dock that will be great at Port Mercy. A company that is a wonderful and faithful friend of Friend Ships is providing service for our ship's life rafts so that we are ready to set sail!

As this Activities Report goes to print, those of us remaining at Port Mercy are standing by to see if Hurricane Irene makes landfall and causes damage that requires our assistance on the East Coast of the US. If so, we'll go in to provide food service, spiritual support and whatever other help we can. When power is down, stores are closed and water is unusable, to provide a clean, safe place to eat a tasty hot meal is crucial. And it gives our teams an opportunity to talk and pray with the victims, offering them spiritual encouragement as well as physical refreshment.

At present we are preparing equipment and organizing supplies, training crew and making contact with possible donors for the food, paper products and other items we will need. Friend Ships has responded to many disasters both here and overseas including earthquakes, fires, floods, tornados and hurricanes. We find them to be a very fruitful time for ministry. There is so much mentally and spiritually to process when people live through a disaster, it is actually very physically draining to the victims. To be able to help them, in a natural way by providing a hot meal in a comfortable environment where they can talk to others, delivering the household goods they need, working with them to clean up homes and yards etc. is a tremendous blessing to them. We are able to talk to, pray with and love on people that under ordinary circumstances we would never meet or have an opportunity to communicate with on such an intimate level. For the Christians among them we are an answer to their prayers.

For example, in the aftermath of a terrible hurricane here in the US, we met a man who considered himself a steadfast atheist. After our team talked with him and delivered all the household goods, food and water that he needed, he told us he actually "felt something in a spiritual sense," when we offered him a gift of a Bible and he happily took it home to read. Another man we met told us he had lived a life of crime and the hurricane had taken all of his possessions he had earned throughout this life. Prior to the hurricane sin had destroyed his family. After praying with one of our staff to accept the Lord, he asked them to go with him to his estranged wife's home and help him to restore his family.

Following a Category 5 hurricane in Central America, a storm that killed more than 20,000 people, we were able to deliver tons of goods to remote villages that had not received any aid. The homes and boats on one village reachable only by water had been completely destroyed. They had cried out the Lord for help and in faith that someone would eventually bring them food and water, they had gathered up pieces of scrap wood and built a warehouse to store the items. When our ship loaded up a landing craft that could go into the village's shallow harbor and we arrived with tons of supplies, the entire village was there to greet us. They knew we were sent by God even before we told them!

These are a few of the hundreds, even thousands of stories that we encounter when we respond to disaster. We couldn't do this work without your help- your support, love and prayers. Thank you for sending us to help people in times of desperate need.

We love you!

Don & Sondra and the Friend Ships Team

Isaiah 58: 6-9

*“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and
blood?
8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness[a] will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear
guard.
9 Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.*

In the event that Hurricane Irene makes landfall on the US East Coast this weekend, we will keep you informed of what action we are taking. If the storm does cause massive damage as is anticipated and if the Lord touches your heart to help, we would be grateful for finances that will allow us to acquire the fuel and supplies we need to be ready to respond. If you feel led to ask your church to participate in taking up an offering for the hurricane victims, we would be very appreciative, grateful and thankful. We know times are tight, not only for us but for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration and for following the leading of the Lord. We can do nothing on our own strength. We must rely on the Lord and pray that He might touch hearts to help.

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I would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Please specify one of the following and fill out your e-mail address below.

I can receive attached files in acrobat reader. Text only (no pictures).

I would also like to be part of the Special Forces Prayer team.

Note: If you have a SPAM filter please allow e-mails from activities@friendships.org and specialforces@friendships.org to be accepted.

I would like to receive a volunteer staff application so I can come and work with you.

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