

Friend Ships Unlimited (a.k.a. Park West Children's Fund, Inc.)

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March 2011 - Activities Report

Hello Friend Ships Family:

Thank you for all that you do every month to help us reach out to people in need. You are such a vital part of the teamwork that allows us to function and grow!

At present, we are researching options for helping the people of Japan recover from the terrible tragedy they have endured from the recent earthquake and tsunami. This has been one of the most devastating natural disasters in our time and we are looking for ways that we can help the victims with the love of Jesus.

We intend to start our response with 3-40' commercial container shipments of generators, tarp, food and water to be received by churches in the region north of Tokyo for distribution to people in need.

When the terrible earthquake took place in Kobe, Japan a number of years ago, we were able to send air and sea shipments to the Vineyard and Calvary Chapel churches there to reach out to their communities. We'll keep you informed as plans materialize.

Our team in Los Angeles is working on the Japan project as we continue to seek a new facility to serve as a West Coast Disaster Relief Center and Sea Hawk Urban Outreach Training Center. If we are able to find the right facility, we could continue and enlarge the food distribution program to reach hundreds of people in need every week with food and with the message of the Gospel.

This West Coast facility would also serve as a base to store equipment and supplies so that in the event of earthquakes, floods, fires or other natural disasters in the west, we could respond immediately with help and with spiritual encouragement and serve as a base to continue to ship to Asia when there are disasters, such as the earthquake in Japan.

The Sea Hawks continue to prepare our two boats for sea, pack up the warehouse we are moving from and have been able to deliver flowers and minister to nursing homes.

This month our cargo department has donated medical supplies to Christian clinics in Mexico, and new shoes and blankets to Mexico. We have also been able to give two huge chicken incubators to a ministry in Guatemala that provides for orphans. Each of these has the capacity to produce up to 42,000 chicks every six weeks! You can see what a difference that will make; in line with the old adage that it is better to teach a man to fish than to give him a fish. These incubators put fishing in a new perspective, eh? It is so exciting to see what God does and what He can accomplish with a little help from His children. He always seems to want to give us the opportunity to engage in acts of kindness rather than just snap his fingers and provide. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to be a part of your kindness.

The Village in Roatán hosted several events this month. Pastors from the island brought children from each church to train to be able to minister to other children at an event later in the year. Two men's groups came to fast, pray, and praise and worship. The Honduran team continues to make repairs and upgrades to the facility in anticipation of the soon-to-come Sea Hawks Training Center for Central American youth.

The Louisiana Sea Hawk team took turns rotating to New Orleans during the days of Mardi Gras. Each day we read scripture in the French Quarter Square and as the Word was read, other team members stood by to minister to people whom the Holy Spirit drew. Some teams performed music and others went out into streets in search of divine appointments with the festival's attendees. Many people were anxious to talk about the Lord and several gave their hearts to Him!

At Port Mercy in Lake Charles, we are constructing new warehousing and preparing a large existing building on the property for renovation. As we realize the potential of the Sea Hawk program and the diverse abilities of the young men and women being trained, we imagine the promise of the future growth and expansion at Friend Ships and are overwhelmed with the opportunities that stand before us! The building we are preparing for renovation will someday be a base for the growing Sea Hawk program with gyms, auditoriums, classrooms, offices and housing. With the energy of our young Sea Hawks, there is so much we can do for the Kingdom!

We (*Don & Sondra*) are working on and hope to complete *Jesus & Company Part II* this year, a book that will tell of the wonderful things the Lord has done at Friend Ships from the time Part I left off some years ago. In fact, there is so much to recount that Part III will soon follow.

Because at Friend Ships there is not a charge for any help or training that we offer and because we seldom ask for donations but prefer to let the Lord move on people's hearts, it is sometimes daunting to consider expanding our operations with programs that will also expand our expenses and bring in no funds, but we believe the Lord wants our steps to be ordered by Him, not by our cash flow. We try our best to be led by His Spirit to do all that He allows us to do of good fruit producing activities that advance the Kingdom of God on earth and then trust in the Lord for His provisions with full confidence.

We are encouraged continually, when we read in the Word, how God honors help for those in need. As it says in Isaiah 58:

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?

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?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

Thank you for standing with us on this exciting walk of faith. Please pray for an opportunity to feed, clothe and help the Japanese in their time of trouble, with all that He puts in our hands to do. But pray for the people most of all. Thank you for being doers of the word as we continue to do all that we know to do. We love you and appreciate you.

With Love & Gratitude,

Don & Sondra

Don and Sondra Tipton and the Friend Ships Crew