

# Friend Ships July 2012 Activities Report

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Dear Friend Ships Family:

This month we held graduation for our first year Sea Hawk students. As part of the celebration, we put together a video with each student talking about important lessons the Lord had taught them during the past year. We thought you would be as thrilled as we were to hear the testimonies of fruit being produced from the Sea Hawks program. Below are the transcribed excerpts from those interviews from each of our awesome young graduates.



TRE: This year as a Sea Hawk we got the opportunity to go to Honduras. . . One of the things God showed me is that I need to be a person of integrity, especially when no one's watching. The Bible says that whatever we do, we do unto the Lord and He taught me that when no one is watching, He's watching, even the intentions of my heart, the thoughts and my motives. He's taught me to do everything unto Him with a great attitude because we're storing up treasures in heaven.

AMY: While being at Sea Hawks this year, one of the things God's really taught me is more about His forgiveness and what that actually is. One of the verses I hold onto is in Philippians 3. Paul is trying to be more like Jesus and he's saying that he hasn't accomplished that or achieved perfection but he forgets what is in the past and strives for what's ahead. That's what I've learned to do. Let go of the things in the past that will only trip me up and strive for the things God has for me in the future. Focus on Him.



TIFFANY: One of the most exciting and trying things in my life has definitely been the sail from California to Roatán, Honduras. God showed me how to wait upon Him. God used this to work on me. He said, "Turn this waiting that I'm giving you into worship" and when I did, He rewarded me abundantly. He drew so close to me and refined me through that process and I drew so close to Him. Like James says "Draw near to Him and He'll draw near to you."

ASHLEY: Before I came to Sea Hawks, I thought I knew who God was. Once I got here, He started changing that idea and reforming my thoughts about who He is. He showed me how big He is and gave me a deeper passion to get to know Him better. He showed through small things, like a prayer of wanting strawberries that He answered, to protecting us as we sailed a boat through the Gulf of Mexico. He's so big! And He showed me that even though He is that big, He still cares about us and loves us.



MATT: This year in the Sea Hawks program God brought a lot of things that were in my heart to the surface. One of them was complaining. When we were in Roatán, my job was grounds and we had to machete and weed-eat the whole property. I began to get frustrated and lose my hope in what I was doing. My leader that was over me, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Sea Hawk John, I saw in him the whole time that he never complained, he never even grumbled, so through his example of perseverance God has really shown me how to be grateful.

ALISHA: One of the most important things I learned at Sea Hawks is about love. In the Sea Hawks program you get to travel, help people—feed them and cloth them but love really starts with the people around you, not just the people on the outside, the people on the inside too—people you live with, people you work with. . . I've learned you've got to love them too.



ERICA: This year at Sea Hawks one of the most important things I've learned is how faithful God is. Even in the food ministry here at Friend Ships, He showed how faithful He was providing for us every day. Even growing up in the church my whole entire life, I still had doubts about if God was real, does God really care about us and that is one thing Sea Hawks taught me the most is how big God really is; how much He does care about us; how He holds us in the palm of His hand; how He's always there protecting us and guiding us along the path, holding our hand and making sure we take each step carefully – even when we feel like He's not there.

JASON: The thing that I've learned is to trust in God and rely on Him only. In so doing, it has been the most epic adventure of my life. If we want to be like Jesus, we have to take up our cross and follow him.



NICK: I'm grateful for the structure the Sea Hawks program provides and the outside support from other Pastors as well. Dr. Siratt was one of the biggest blessings—the fire and the anointing from this man. It really touched our group and changed us. Through his teaching, it enabled me to grow more and fall in love with the word of God and really take God at His word.

MIKE: One thing I learned this year in working with Friend Ships is patience. When I was in California working on the Pearl there were lots of things that had to be done, re-done and done over again. But we all pushed through it and made it work. We all had a great time, lots of hard work and lots of focus. It was a great experience.



STEPHEN: This year in Roatán I learned to go out and evangelize. Every single time it got easier and it really gave me boldness. It allowed me to overcome the fear that I had of speaking to people about my faith and as a result I brought three people to the Lord through the Holy Spirit. I've learned how to help Him work through me. It's been awesome.

DANIEL: Something I learned this year is that when we take the first step, God does the rest. . . There is no more dangerous place on this earth than to be out of the will of God. We just need to say "Yes Lord, I'm here. I want to work with You." He has so many plans for everybody, such a huge future.



JOSH: Since being in the Sea Hawks program, God has given me great opportunities to lead Praise and Worship and there was one day when we went to a nursing home. I started playing a song, "How Great Thou Art". All of a sudden, all the elderlies looked at me and started singing and the room was full of the sound of their voices. That was such an amazing experience!

SARAH C: I was one of the people sent to California and we had to work really hard then when we finally got everything done . . . we had to wait three (more) weeks. It made me realize God's timing. Looking back at the trip now and everything we got to do and all the people we got to meet and touch and people that touched my life, it was worth the wait.



SARAH F: I surrendered everything to God and He blessed me with taking me to so many different places. I ended up sailing to Roatán and that lasted for three months, but the things He did in my heart over that time were just amazing. He was really answering my prayers. . . He proved to me that He is so faithful. Things that He will do: He will take you on the adventure of a lifetime. That is exactly what He did this year for me.

God is using the Sea Hawks program to change the lives of our young students and teaching them important Godly principals that will last a lifetime. You can see by their comments that the Lord Himself is teaching the students and that is our goal! Thank you for helping us to conduct this all-scholarship program and the many other things we do here at Friend Ships. We couldn't do it without your love, your support and your prayers. May the Lord continue to richly bless you!

Together in Christ,

*Don and Sondra Tipton and the Friend Ships Team*