

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

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March 2012 – Activities Report

Dear Friend Ships Family,

It has been a productive month and we want to take time to tell you, our support team, how important you are to all that is accomplished here at Friend Ships. Thank you for standing by us. Thank you for your prayers, your love and your gifts. Thank you for listening to the Lord as He leads you to help people in need. We truly could not carry on without you and we are so very grateful to God for putting you together with us.

StoreHouse One in Los Angeles and Lake Charles has collected and distributed 35,000 pounds of fresh food items this past month. Here at Port Mercy and in Roatán we have received donations of mattresses, a band saw, stadium lights, scissor lift, a pump, compactor, bailing machine, satellite phone, uniforms, linens, refrigerators, freezers and a hopper. These are all items that are so very valuable to our various programs and we are very grateful to each donor.

Mobile Conference Center Pearl and sailboat Divine Wind continue to make their way toward Roatán and at the time of this printing are close to the Panama Canal. Pearl made a stop in Salina Cruz, Mexico to do some repairs and the crew, led by Pastor Bo Melin was able to make good use of their time. Here is a report from Pastor Bo:

I preached at a new church plant amongst an indigenous people. They have their own language, but many also speak Spanish. The pastor wanted us to share about missions because he was challenging the church in this area. David shared briefly about the Seahawk program. Jennifer interpreted. The church meets in the home of one of the members. Basically it is a small walled in compound with several thatched huts. The room we met in was concrete block. The congregation was mostly children with a handful of adults. Following the service we were taken to a nearby fishing village where several families had lost their homes in a fire one week ago. Specifically we had gone to pray with one young couple that the church had previously reached out to. They were not believers. The young woman had a C-section gone bad - and spent 21 days in the hospital. On coming home, the newborn became sick. Remembering that the church people had encouraged her to pray to Jesus, she did and the baby recovered. Right after that, their home burnt to the ground and they lost everything. We accompanied a few members of the church to visit them and bring them gifts. I was very moved by the loving way in which this mission church was

reaching out in practical ways to help this young family. The young man showed us the molten ruin of his fishing net - his only means of income. We replaced the net and gave it through the church. The church also plans to help this family rebuild their home and start a weekday Bible study there and eventually plant a church in that village. Following our visit with this family we were brought back to the first village where they served us a wonderful meal of tamales!

Divine Wind was in port on the West Coast of Honduras for a few days and her crew had some time to go into the community street witnessing. Spanish lessons are coming in handy!

In Roatán, the team has worked hard on producing food and we have been able to harvest squash, beans, tomatoes, pineapples, okra, cucumbers, watermelon and pumpkins! The tilapia fish are getting more mature each day and will soon be ready to provide food; all in anticipation of providing for the first class of Central American Sea Hawks.

We have been blessed to host four church conferences in Roatán this month including two for youth and a ladies meeting. Upcoming in April we have a children's camp and a large youth event scheduled.

The Sea Hawks in Roatán have continued their training with maritime and sailing classes, mechanics, language and physical training including mud crawls and an obstacle course. They have gone into local villages to minister each week through door to door ministry, basketball, soccer and neighborhood cleanup. Here is one of Director Murray Douglas' reports from a weekend outreach:

The team that went into Juticalpa had a great time with the kids. We took a soccer ball with us so that was the main attraction and we did face painting and played games with the children as well. This time we had several parents show up and the Sea Hawks that were most fluent in their Spanish were able to minister with them. On our way back home we had a guy follow us a ways and asked one of the Sea Hawks basically "What must I do to be saved?", so we prayed the sinner's prayer there kneeling down on the street. Very exciting!

Thank you again for helping us to keep on with the Lord's work. We are preparing now for the tornado and hurricane seasons that are approaching. We plan to be ready to respond quickly and effectively, showing the love of Jesus to people who need a helping hand.

Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you do for the Kingdom!

Love & Gratitude,

Don & Sondra

Don and Sondra Tipton and the Friend Ships Crew