

# Friend Ships June 2012 Activities Report

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*Pearl & Divine Wind*

Dear Friend Ships Family:

It has been a sensational month. Thank you for continuing to help us deliver aid and encouragement in the Lord. Conference Center Pearl and Motor Sailor Divine Wind arrived in Roatán with their crew who joined the team there to carry out the work of the ministry. We were very blessed to have Dr. Roger Siratt and his wife, Sallie, spend a week with us teaching the Sea Hawks each day. In the evenings, we hosted the first conferences aboard MV Pearl and they were exciting! The boat performed its purpose flawlessly as we packed the house with the island Pastors and some from the Mosquito Coast on the mainland of Honduras who joined us for three nights of ministry.

We were able to serve a delicious dinner each night followed by powerful ministry. The speakers were Dr. Siratt who taught about love and forgiveness and Friend Ships Founder and Executive Director, Don Tipton, who talked to the Pastors about the Sea Hawk program, reaching out to the needy and how God provides for and cares for those who help others. We also hosted a luncheon for Pastors' wives. We were blessed to have a group of wonderfully warm women of God join us for this event as Sallie Siratt taught and encouraged the ladies concerning issues common to those married to Pastors. In addition, the Sea Hawks were privileged to have Pastor Norman Thomas, his wife, Dr. Debbie, and their ministry team teach during the week. By the weekend, we were all filled to the brim with awesome spiritual food.

We were happy to have an opportunity to donate an electric bicycle to Pastor Galindo in Roatán who provides food to hundreds of people in need every day from his church in downtown Coxen Hole. He was excited to receive the bike which his ministry will use to home deliver meals to up to 150 people who are bedridden. Pastor Galindo kindly invited all the members of our large team to visit his wonderful recreational park where they were able to zip line through the jungle and enjoy one of Roatán's most beautiful beaches. It was a great way to relax after such a flurry of ministry work.

Then it was time for goodbyes to the team that will remain in Roatán and continue to operate the facility as they host conferences, establish a soccer league and reach out to the community. First year students and some second years headed home aboard Pearl and Divine Wind for first year graduation at Port Mercy in July.

Two-thirds of both the first and second year Sea Hawks have decided to stay on for another year, so our team continues to grow! Randy Smyth and Oscar Chavez, who are serving in Roatán, and Mac Swanks, who is serving at Port Mercy, will be 4th year Sea Hawks and Hannah Riley, who runs food service at Port Mercy, is 6th year, a fruit of our very first class. What leadership and stability these long term team members give to our operations! They have been on many missions and offer great maturity and guidance to the new students and to the outreaches. In August, we will welcome a new group of Sea Hawks who receive a full ride scholarship. If you know any young Christians who would like to take a year of their lives to serve the Lord, draw closer to Him and have the adventure of a lifetime, tell them to check out our website at [www.friendships.org](http://www.friendships.org) and click on Sea Hawks.

In July, we celebrate the ten year anniversary with Friend Ships of our awesome Captain Stan Langaker and his equally awesome wife, Sharon. We mark ten year service with the awarding of a silver engraved "Warrior" dog tag that has engraved on it 2 Corinthians 9:13 "Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else." Nichole Douglas, ten year old daughter of Sea Hawk Director Murray Douglas and his wife, Carla, is also receiving her 10 year dog tag as she has been with Friend Ships her entire life. Nichole is anxiously awaiting her 18th birthday so that she can enroll in the Sea Hawk program!

We are so blessed to have with us a growing group of crew who have passed the ten year mark in their service with Friend Ships. This special team includes Colleen Meza, Ray George, Gwen Tipton, Teri Shields, Murray and Carla Douglas, Ken and D.J. Stevens, Walt and Jan Takita, Stuart Ver Wys, and Steve and Debbie Maas. Wow! What warriors! Are we blessed? And they said it couldn't be done. Working for the Lord year after year, no income, just His love and His provision, standing fast where God has sent them so that as it says in 2 Corinthians 9:13, 'people will praise God for the obedience that accompanies their confession of the Gospel.' The combined efforts of our regular crew with the new, energetic Sea Hawks are such an effective weapon against pain, poverty and spiritual darkness.

As Pearl and Divine Wind arrive home to Port Mercy, we are eagerly planning for the next year. We are now in hurricane season and will stand-by to provide relief in the event of a catastrophic storm. As we do so, we'll work on our equipment, provide upgrades to Port Mercy including construction of all the wonderful warehousing we were able to obtain last year and we will prepare for a medical mission to Honduras later in the year. This year is over half gone so that will come up very fast. Pearl will sail first to provide training, ministry and coordination with Honduran Pastors. Integrity will follow with the equipment, supplies and people we need to conduct the mission. StoreHouse One Los Angeles and StoreHouse One Lake Charles will continue to collect and distribute food to the local communities.

It is an exciting time to be in the ministry. There is so much opportunity. Disaster relief, medical missions, food distribution, training of young people – all programs geared to meet the physical needs of people as we address their most important need – a firm relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has sent us out to help them. How can we thank you enough for standing by us and helping us to continue? We love you. And remember "Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."

Love,

*Don and Sondra Tipton and the Friend Ships Team*