

Friend Ships May 2014 Activities Report

FRIEND SHIPS at PORT MERCY, 1019 North 1st Avenue, Lake Charles, LA 70601
Tel: 337-433-5022 Fax: 337-433-3433 Email: info@friendships.org Website: www.friendships.org

Dear Friend Ships Family:

Thank you so much for your support, your prayers and your love. Last month we asked that you pray about our plans for the future and this month, we have been challenged with awesome opportunities.

When tornados ripped through several southern states, we sent an advance team to see if Friend Ships could help. We were pleased to find out that the local churches and organizations were meeting the needs, so we decided not to send a team but continue to stand by for a future disaster.

The Sea Hawks continued with studies this month including maritime training and food service. We were blessed to have Pastor Wesley from Oklahoma and Reverend Douglas from New Zealand minister to the classes and crew. We conducted several local missions including an outreach to a nursing home and we told Bible stories, had prayer, face painting and balloons on a special day set aside for children in the city's major park.



Bible Stories in the park...



Singing at nursing home...

This month we submitted a proposal to the local YMCA to take over their former building. It is so thrilling to plan out this exciting ministry for the Lord. We turned in a plan to reactivate the wonderful facility that has a large pool, basketball court, several racquetball courts, many classrooms and conference rooms, Jacuzzis, steam rooms, a large yard and parking area. We proposed a return to the vision of the original founders of the Young Men's Christian Association who established the organization in 1844 as a sanctuary of Bible study and prayer for young men "seeking escape from the hazards of life on the streets." Their stated purpose was "the improvement of the spiritual condition of the young men engaged in houses of business, by the formation of Bible classes, family and social prayer meetings, mutual improvement societies, or any other spiritual agency." Their first logo has as its centerpiece an open Bible and the scripture John 17:21.

When granted the facility, we plan to carry on with this original dream and vision of the founders. Through the establishment of fitness programs for children and team sports; multi-denominational Bible studies and classes in self-defense, civic responsibility, nutrition, computer skills, culinary skills, etiquette and other educational programs; anti-bullying programs and parents night out. We hope to improve the quality of life for the community's children, young adults, adults and seniors. The Lord has given us a network of excellent personnel to lead each area of this exciting outreach and we look forward to reaching every aspect of the community with this new challenge.

We would not want to take on these big challenges without you standing by us in every way. Thank you for never-ending love and support!

Warm Regards,

Don and Sondra Tipton and the Friend Ships Teams

That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

John 17:21

New American Standard Bible (NASB)