

Update from Texas – October 13, 2010

Yes, here I am in Texas! I am doing a training program called Gateway at the International Operations Center (IOC) for Mercy Ships at Garden Valley, TX (near Tyler). The 6-1/2 week program includes 3 weeks of classroom instruction, 1 week of Basic Safety Training, and 2-1/2 weeks of field service, which in our case will be served in Haiti.

Our class of 18 has just completed the first 3 weeks of study which included:

- Faith Foundations (The God We Serve, Kingdom Principles, Principles of Prayer)
- Personal/Interpersonal Development (Principles to Live By, Living & Working in Harmony, Conflict Resolution)
- Working With Those We Serve (World View Issues, Transformational Development, Cross-Cultural Communication, Tensions in Working with the Poor)

If that sounds like a lot, IT WAS! It's a lot of concepts and information to take in over such a short period and we will be processing it for a while to come, but it is very useful and challenging.



This week we have begun our Basic Safety Training module. We are learning about fighting fires onboard the ship, including how to don and use fire-fighting clothing and the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)! We're also doing Basic First Aid and CPR, Personal Survival Techniques, and Water Survival. I've reconfirmed my belief that I do not have any desire or aptitude to be a firefighter!



Our field service, as mentioned above, will be held in Haiti; we will be working with an established mission in the area, Mission of Hope Haiti (www.mohhaiti.org). We will depart from Dallas/Ft. Worth on Tuesday, October 19 and return on Wednesday, November 3. Your prayers for our safe travel, our time

of service in Haiti, and the people of Haiti are greatly appreciated. After debriefing on the following day we'll be scattering to our homes until we are reunited on the *Africa Mercy* early next year.

Support Update

Dependence is a hard thing to accept sometimes. Most of us have been raised in a culture that values independence and self-sufficiency. We are taught to get out into the world and make our own way. To be dependent is not a positive thing.

But sometimes we find that we can see the glory and power of God so much more clearly when we are put in the position of dependence on Him. We have to trust not only that He **can** provide, but that He **will** provide.

God has called me to serve Him through Mercy Ships. Since He has called me, He will provide the means for me to answer that call. Perhaps He has called you to be part of that means; to be a sender, to help provide the financial support that will enable me to go. I am asking each of you to pray about this.

I am accountable to the Mercy Ships organization and must have at least 75% of my budget in place or pledged before returning to the *Africa Mercy*. Currently I have about 30%. If after prayerful consideration you can commit to being one of my supporters, please let me know so I can make an accurate accounting. Commitments that begin now or in January will enable me to fulfill my commitment. You can make a contribution online at:

<https://connect.mercyships.org/page/outreach/view/crewmates/juarezc>

or send a check made out to **Mercy Ships** with my Designation Code **#2793** (not my name) in the memo line to:

Mercy Ships
Crewmates
P.O. Box 2020
Garden Valley, TX 75771

And always, your prayers for Mercy Ships and for me as we go out to serve the forgotten poor through hope and healing are necessary and gratefully received.

God bless you!

Claudia

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Note: If you'd prefer not to receive these updates, rather get them at a different email address, or know of someone else who'd like to receive them, just let me know! Feel free to pass this on to others who might be interested, too.

If you're new to this email list, you can also find my previous Newsletters and Updates on my website: www.hisfamily.com.