

# On Land and Sea

*Update – December 18, 2011*

**It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... all around the ship!**



**And wishing you, wherever you are, a most joyous Christmas season!**

## **Between Outreaches**

Well, here we are in Ghana! On Nov. 17 we performed our last surgical procedure in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The hospital ward closed a week later and we all began the process of packing up to move on to the next Outreach. Supplies and equipment from the dental clinic and HOPE Center had to be packed and returned to the ship. Tents had to be taken down, cleaned and packed away. Floors in the hospital had to be stripped and waxed. Beds, mattresses, and supplies of all sorts had to be cleaned, stacked, and tied down. Everything everywhere has to be tied down so it doesn't shift and fall during the sailing time.

At last all was ready, the pilot came onboard, and we were off on a 5 day sail! While out in the Atlantic enroute, we met up with a tanker and fueled up. Who would have expected a pump in the middle of the ocean? Finally, land came into view again. I'm in a new place and didn't even have to pack my suitcase!

This few weeks in Ghana is both a time of rest and a time of preparation. Ghana is a bit more developed than most of West Africa and so offers a few more options for getting ashore for times of recreation and refreshing (and shopping!). It is also time for planning and preparation for our upcoming outreach to Togo which will begin in early January.

Thank you for your support and prayers throughout this year!

Blessings!

*Claudia*

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