

Mission Statement of Mercy Ships: *"Mercy Ships follows the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus, bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor."*

Vision Statement of Mercy Ships: *"Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to transform individuals and serve nations, one at a time."*

Mercy Ships is a volunteer non-profit ministry. The majority of the crew, myself included, do not receive a salary. We pay for all of our own expenses including food and housing on board, travel, insurance, etc. This provides an opportunity for partnership through financial support. If you wish to share in my ministry financially, please make checks payable to Mercy Ships and send to: Mercy Ships, PO Box 2020, Lindale, TX 75771 Attn: Donor Services with a note designating for the support of Keith Brinkman. You may also support online—please go to the Support tab on my web page for the available options —www.keithbrinkman.com.

Micah 6:8 *"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*



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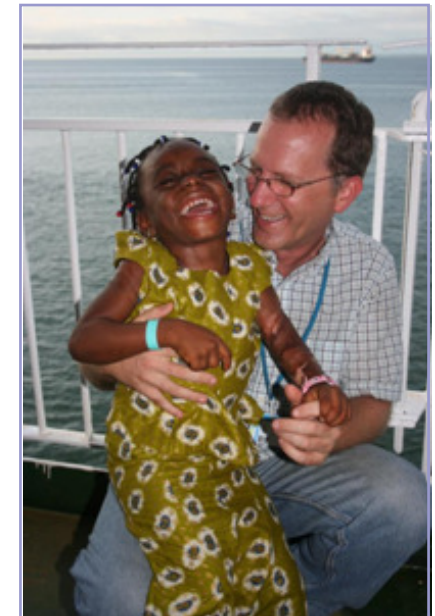
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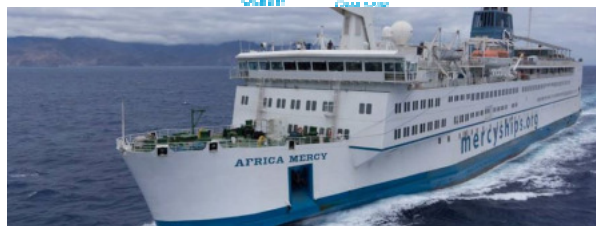
KRB Update is published monthly and distributed via email and posted on my web page and on Facebook—if you would like to receive a copy please email me.

Currently in Poin te-Noire, Republic of Congo till June 2014. New field service location is Conakry, Guinea till June 2015.

Keith R. Brinkman



*Celebrating 25
Years of
Service in
World Missions
1989–2014*





Keith R. Brinkman

If someone asked me 25 years ago where I would be living and what I would be doing in 2014, I don't know what I would have said. Even just ten years ago, I didn't picture myself here on the continent of Africa. Though as I think about it, I would never want to miss this season in

my life. Some thoughts in particular on the last seven years in ten nations here in Africa:

- Love God and Love and Serve Others: through fulfilling times with our patients and their caregivers—in the wards, HOPE Center, Deck 7 and even in some of their homes. Seeing transformation taking place. Many of these relationships started at the various surgical screenings. When I think about a particular country, it is the people of that nation that I remember in my heart and mind.
- Being on field service for ten months allows for deeper relationships with our local workers and partners—sharing life and experiences with them—learning from each other and praying for each other.
- Love Others: by spending quality and quantity of time at various orphanages loving on children, some who are now teenagers and others are adults. Being 'Uncle' to many.
- Be People of Integrity and Excellence: by using my giftings in administration in my service to the Lord.

I Corinthians 12:28 *"And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration..."*

3 Roles in 25 years

Even though people change jobs often and that occurs here with Mercy Ships also, I have basically had just three roles over these 25

years. Starting at the US Office in 1989 till 1994 as the accountant. I transitioned from the US to the *Caribbean Mercy* when offered the role of Financial Officer and as part of the Senior Management Team from 1994—2005. In 2005, there were some months of not knowing where God was leading, but continuing to pray and to seek His plan and direction for my life. I was so excited when accepted to be the Programs Administrator on board the *Africa Mercy*. The ship was delayed with final renovations in England but after four months there, I flew to the *Anastasis* in Ghana in West

Africa in June 2006. This began a new season in my life. Some of my responsibilities as Programs Administrator include: working on our project plans, budgets, reports, expenses, statistics and metrics, travel, advance team liaison and serving on assessment, evaluation and advance teams.



"You will never be completely at home again, because part of your heart always will be elsewhere. That is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place."

Miriam Adeney

I read this quote and it is so true. Even though I have transitioned to serve here in Africa, part of my heart remains in Central America and in the Dominican Republic.

Through the internet, I stay in touch with some of my dear amigos, but it is not the



same as being there face-to-face. I felt from God that even though I may not return to those places on a Mercy Ship, it doesn't mean I will never travel there—as time and finances are available.

These 25 years of service would not been possible without the support of many. I think of those who responded back in 1989 with a commitment to pray for me regularly and as the Lord brought me to their minds and hearts. A huge thank you to all those who have provided and continue to provide financial support monthly for years and a few for the entire 25 years. Without their donations, it would not have been possible to continue. Others have joined my support team over the years and you can't imagine how grateful I am. Others have helped in many other ways. My prayer is that as I share what is happening here, that you know deep in your heart that you are a part of lives being changed and transformed.