



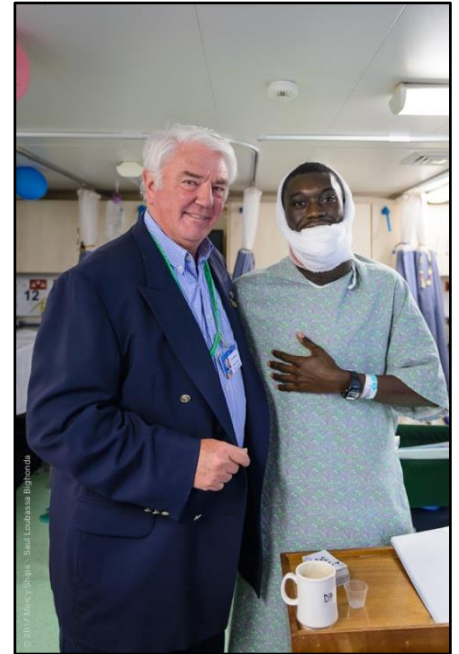
# KRB Update #2224 – Community of Faith

Keith R. Brinkman with Mercy Ships

29 October 2017

Recently, our crew, long and short term, had a conversation on the question of ‘What does a Community of Faith look like in a practical sense on a Mercy Ship?’ We started from the top with understanding first and foremost that there is a strong vision from our senior leadership of what this larger Community of Faith looks like – our Core Values – Love God, Love and Serve Others, People of Integrity and Excellence. Then we practically filled in the details of how we can/do make that happen on a day-to-day basis here on the *Africa Mercy*. The Community of Faith Looks Like...

- Showing God’s **love** and **grace**
- Accepting that everyone **has value** in the community
- Accepting that everyone in the community has **something to give**
- Coming **home**; creating home
- **Supporting** one another
- Humbly **servng** in positions that may be less than what an individual’s training suggests (laundry/ housekeeping)
- Providing **acceptance** and **compassion**
- **Forgiving** others (particularly in the laundry room)
- Achieving a **common goal**
- **Greeting** each other (not passing without speaking)
- Recognizing that all layers of the community are **equal**
- Living with and **learning cultures**
- Showing **vulnerability**
- Living like **siblings** (the good and the bad, loving and forgiving)
- Looking past one another’s **differences**
- **Glorifying God**
- Focusing on our **passions**
- **Sharing** the bad days
- Loving the **eclectic**
- **Using skills** to help others/the organization
- **Worshipping** with our hands
- **Dancing** to the beat of the same drum
- Using **common language** including random phrases from places we’ve been like “**Azafady**” (which means excuse me or sorry in Malagasy for those who don’t know)
- **Sharing** the load
- Operating like an African village where **everyone contributes**



Our Founder Don Stephens with one of the patients I visit Axel Donald



Some of the crew of the Africa Mercy

*“If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus . . .”* Philippians 2:1-5

Prayer Requests: \* Axel (in the photo above) has another surgical treatment tomorrow, please pray for the healing to come  
\* For more women who are suffering with obstetric fistula as we have surgical slots available for them \* For more adults and children who are blind or severe loss of sight – surgery is available – the blind can see.

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