

# KRB NEWS

Missionary: Keith R Brinkman

December 2005

## Hurricane Response

This year's hurricane season was the most active on record. We have watched them particularly as they headed towards the Gulf Coast and also affecting areas of the Caribbean and Central America. Following Hurricane Katrina, the most destructive hurricane to hit the US, I was asked to join our Disaster Response Team. I have been serving as Funds Manager and assisting with logistics. We have hosted disaster response volunteers on board the Caribbean Mercy as she was in the affected area. Other teams are serving in the Mississippi area as we have many relationships there. Even though we have closed the ship, we will continue to coordinate teams in MS for the upcoming months. One story: Evelyn and her niece shared how she was ready to give up. Katrina had taken so much from them as a family; they were in a state of depression, a lack of hope, confused, and frustrated. It was not just the physical scars of Katrina, but the emotional, and spiritual as well. She continued that "Mercy Ships came and they were not alone any longer. Mercy Ships cared and made their promises good. They gave my husband and our family a renewed sense of caring and loving. You gave us

hope."

**Loading supplies to send to the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina.**

**Future the Caribbean Mercy** – I wrote in July about the special project assignment I was working on in regards to possible future use of the ship on which I have lived for the **Udo, Alicia & I processing, strategizing, discussing and dreaming about the**



## **possibilities of future ministry for the Caribbean Mercy.**

past eleven years. We finished our reports on three options – Multi-Purpose, Eye Hospital & Disaster Response/Training. Truly I could see each one working well. I learned much through the process. Below is the answer to our question about the future of the Caribbean Mercy and also about the Anastasis. I have grieved the loss but when we got the final answer that they will sell or scrap the vessel, it still hit me hard. Don Stephens wrote the following to Udo, Alicia and I: *"the work you produced in the report of considerations for the future use of the Caribbean Mercy was outstanding in every way. Your work will be kept as a model for future studies on use of ships in the fleet. It is excellent work."*



**Fusion Conference - Sharing Mercy Ships with many interested in joining our mission. Great to share my story and experiences from the field with ones who are willing and desiring to serve the Lord in world missions.**

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Outside the school in Aguas Negras established back in '03 in the Dominican Republic. I traveled back on a follow up visit to see the ministry there and all that is happening in the community. I was encouraged and thankful to know that we played a small part in God's plans and purposes – my report and photos on the trip are available on my web site.

CBM Finances – I'm nearing the end of my work on the Caribbean Mercy finances. I will finish out our audit materials – the earliest ever for me : )

## **Announcement from our President & Founder Don Stephens:**

- 1. On April 6, 2006 Mercy Ships will commission the flagship of our future, the Africa Mercy. Due to a significant increase in the hospital and community development capacity, the Africa Mercy will double the amount of people served by the Anastasis and Caribbean Mercy combined.*
- 2. It is our belief that the Africa Mercy will serve some of the regions most needy for the next 30 years.*
- 3. Both the Caribbean Mercy and Anastasis are over 50 years old. International maritime regulations indicate significant additional expense should the two ships remain in service. The Africa Mercy is the first ship of a new era of Mercy Ships hospital ships and part of the long range plan to bring hope and healing to the world's poorest people.*
- 4. The Anastasis and Caribbean Mercy are both to be retired after serving as effective*

*tools in bringing hope and healing to countless of the world's poor.*  
*5. Many of the crew from the Anastasis and Caribbean Mercy are considering service on the Africa Mercy.*



***Africa Mercy – near the shipyard in Newcastle, United Kingdom. Plans to commission in April and on field service in Ghana West Africa by June '06.***

## **Future**

With the doors of the Caribbean Mercy closed, I have been looking at the options available within Mercy Ships as I don't feel I am to leave Mercy Ships. I am currently inquiring about a role on the Africa Mercy with the Programs Department. I will learn more about my request for a transfer in January. I'm not anxious or worried. God has been preparing my heart. Until I know my future long term plans, I continue here at the IOC working with the teams we are sending to the Gulf Coast and in other areas where I can assist. I welcome your prayers, input and counsel during this transitional time period. I want to walk on the road God has for my life.

**Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year**  
*Serving Together,*

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