

Some photos to share from the final weeks of the field service in Cameroon!!



Weekly Ward service on Sunday mornings down in the Hospital for patients and crew to attend

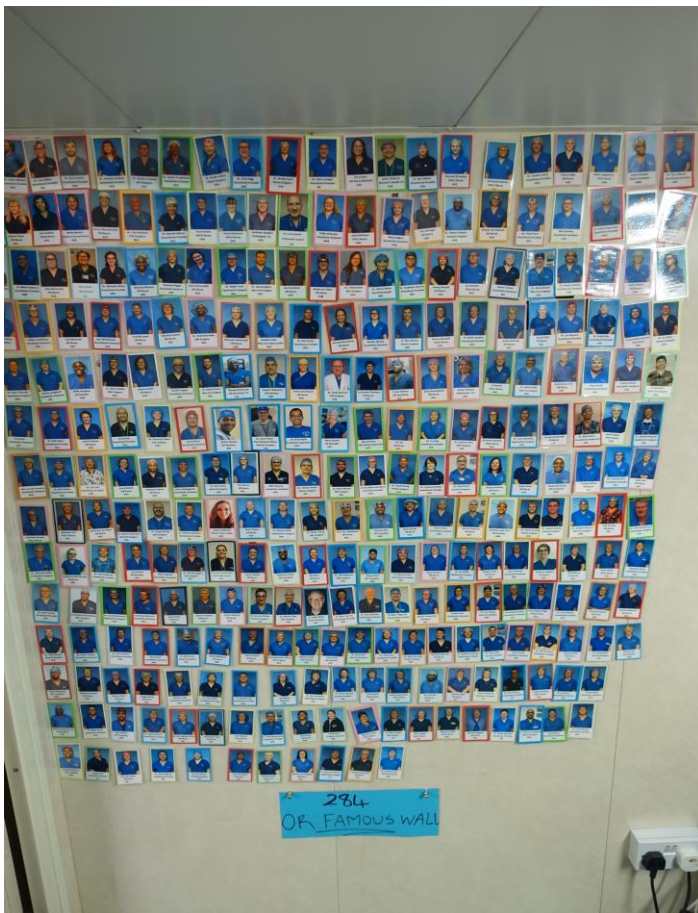


Day Crew Celebration – 25th May 2018

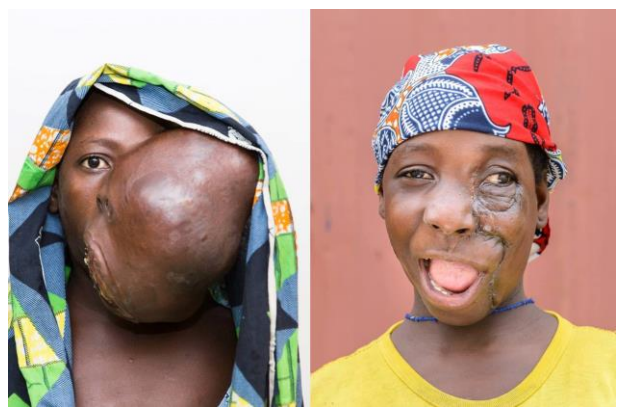


Some very special friends onboard....journeying together in a small

One of the many precious miracles of Hope and life restored we have seen these past months



The short term crew who served in the OR over the 10 month field service.....some came more than once



Kaltumi – Age 12

Thanks so much for your continued faithful prayers and support, journeying with me, as I continue to serve with Mercy Ships!!

The Final Weeks – Douala, Cameroon!!

Running the race.....I want to take you back a few weeks, to right after Easter, the final 8 weeks of the field service remaining in Cameroon. It really felt like an endurance race.....how much more did I have to give? Did others have to give? Would the fresh OR team members still coming boost the energy and excitement within the team? Yes it did! With 7 weeks of surgery remaining, and 8 weeks overall, we prayed within the community as well as the Hospital for the Lord's continued showering of grace, patience with each other, supernatural energy and strength to finish well. The Lord reminded me that through all the challenges within the field service, He walked right with me/us. There have been huge victories through these challenges. We recently sang the song "Never Once" .the Lyrics say, " scars and struggles on the way, but with joy my heart can say, yes my heart can say.....Never once did we ever walk alone.....never once did you leave us on our own.....You are faithful God, you are faithful." He has been so faithful! We asked daily.....He provided daily what we needed! Our God is so good!!!

One of the other many blessings the Lord provided in the final weeks was an on-ship Women's retreat over a week-end, for a day and a half, to stop and breathe. It was a world-wide on-line Women's retreat put out by Velvet Ashes.....The title, "Sustain – Encountering God's heart for you." Was a powerful time of Worship, digging deep into God's word, with prayer and reflecting time with other ladies on the ship. It was just what I needed!

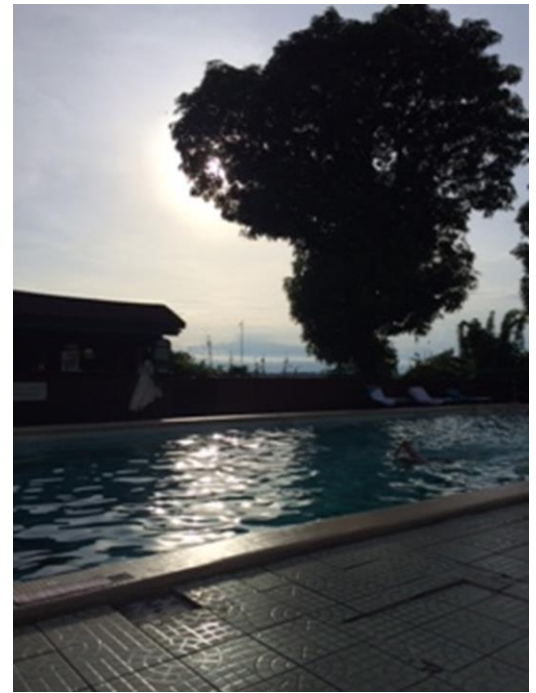
The final weeks of surgery went pretty well, finishing with some Women's Health, General Surgery, and MF. As we get closer to the end, our aim is to slowly decrease the amount of complex surgeries as we think about the care any patients may need after the ship leaves. We would like to complete the care of all of our patients when possible, to not have to leave our patients in others care. In the final 2 weeks of the Hospital being open, we were once again faced with a challenging situation with a patient we all called Papa. Papa presented to us in late April to have the other large inguinal hernia repaired, as he had had the other side repaired in January. They were so complex and large, it wasn't safe for him to have both at once. I don't want to be too descriptive, but this poor man carried the large problem in his shorts. When he showed up, he was in really bad shape, was in pain, he had lost a lot of weight, very malnourished, his bowel not functioning properly, due to the large problem and an obstruction. With only 2 weeks of surgery left, we made the decision to proceed knowing he may not do well, but with doing nothing he was going to die and we knew he wouldn't do well in the local hospital. He made it through the first surgery well, days later with complications needed 2 additional surgeries. In the final days of the ward being open, the week of the 21st of May, we weren't sure he was going to survive. We cried out to the Lord for Papa's life, for healing of his bowel and his other wounds, and by Tuesday the 22th of May Papa turned the corner. We had seen another answer to prayer and real miracle of healing. By Wednesday morning we were transporting him alive off the ship to a nearby hospital who were happy to receive him and care for him the final weeks he would need. We visited Papa last week, and he is doing remarkably well. Papa does not know Jesus yet, but he has heard about Him these past weeks. Papa has been told that God has spared his life and there is a plan, part of it most likely is to have restoration of relationship with his children and siblings. Will you continue to pray along with me for Papa?

Many other things have taken place these past weeks, too much to recount. To sum it up in a few words would be, we celebrated with all our local partners what was accomplished and as a community!! Great things He has done, Greater things He will do!!!

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:28-31



A day of celebration for our Day Crew on the 25th of May....opportunity to wear my African clothing ☺



Place for rest and relaxation visited often.....Mt Cameroon in the distance

Praises and Prayer Requests:

Praise for the miracle of healing that took place in the lives of Adama, Papa Elias, Cherele, Axle, and many others.

Praise for Adama's new faith in Jesus....His light was just bursting out of her when she left

Continued healing for those final patients we had on-board

Continued staffing for Guinea....still have critical positions needing filled

My time in the states these next weeks...restful and refilling time with family and friends