

LATEST NEWS FROM MISSY.....ON THE AFRICA MERCY.....MY UNIQUE HOSPITAL FLOATING HOME!!!

Arrival back to the ship.....Las Palmas, Canary Islands

I arrived back to the ship on July 25th, having had a wonderful time back in the states for just over 7 weeks. It definitely took a few days to settle back in and transition into life back on board and make the switch in my heart. That switch is not trying to be in both of my homes at once, choosing to be fully here or there. It's truly God's grace at work.

The final days in Las Palmas were filled with projects finishing from shipyard, some department planning for the field service, new OR leadership team members arriving, long term crew returning, reunions with friends, little bit more rest, and getting the ship ready for sail.....many ratchet straps used!

Sail to Cameroon..... 12 days

We set sail on the 4th of August and arrived on the 16th, with having a mostly smooth sail the whole time. There was some marine life spotted, but mostly just looked out at a beautiful dark blue sea. There were some sailing activities, like sock golf, wii bowling, worship on the bow, and a little time to spend in my hammock. During the workdays, there was more planning taking place, catching up on e-mails, and I held some team building, OR leadership training times, and devotions. They were some great times of preparation with the team. Also, starting the orientations of both of my new leaders in the OR was important with these days. Also, time for just being still and abiding with Him!! One additional exciting event was crossing the equator and prime meridian at 0 degrees latitude and longitude.



Douala, Cameroon sunset

Our Dockspace



Arrival into Douala, Cameroon and set-up of the ship....just 2 ½ weeks

It was a very exciting Thursday morning the 16th of August, as we made our way into Douala. There was a small celebration happening on the dock as the ship came in, with the Advance team waving us in and other Cameroonian officials. The arrival ceremony took place on Thursday afternoon, with delegation from the Ministry of Health and other Ministers. The unpacking, unstrapping, cleaning, etc of the hospital all started straight away, which creates a great time of unity as a whole hospital team.



All crew photo 31st Aug



Hope Center before and afternow housing between 150 to 175 patients and care givers



Some of our beautiful, brave, courageous patients from the first weeks of surgery.....Meet Justine, Ulrich, Ernest, and our first fistula ladies to have their new dress ceremony.....so much to be thankful for!!!!



First operational days.....first surgeries.....so exciting!!!! Tuesday, Sept 5th

With using every minute we had to prepare and get ready for the OR's, what an exciting day Tuesday Sept 5th was when our first patients walked into the OR. Our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Gary Parker, prayed over the whole PA in the ship, to commission to the Lord our patients and these next months of surgery that will take place here in Cameroon. We've really had some very challenging surgeries in our first 3 weeks, yet the patients are doing so well. We've just started our 4th week of surgery, doing the specialties of Maxillofacial, obstetric fistula, and orthopedic. Our ophthalmology surgical program will start in 1 week. We will be doing on average 120 to 130 patients per week who are blind from their cataracts. Site restored to the blind!

Our dental program is in full swing, which is held off ship in our local dental clinic site. They see between 70 – 80 people a day.

It's so exciting to see our programs all operational, from the surgeries on board, to the dental clinic, to our Mercy ministries, our medical capacity building courses happening, our mentoring programs in the local hospital as well as onboard, the Hope Center exploding with life, of preop and post op patients, and so on!

All nurses photo.....can you find me?



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Our chaplaincy team onboard presented to us as a community of faith with a theme as we started the field service a few weeks ago of seeking FIRST His Kingdom!! Math. 6:33

It is a theme I have very much adopted as our vision for the OR this season of **Seeking FIRST HIS Kingdom** in everything that we do! What does that look like each day?

Prayer requests:

Continued safe transport of all our patients from the interior parts of Cameroon to Douala, especially during rainy season (now through November)

All patients having surgery/recovering from surgery and their follow-up/rehab process – some very complex problems

Logistics of communication to patients who speak rare languages.....to have a caregiver or translator to communicate with them.....that understanding is gained

For continued unity in our team – it's going really well

Finding the right balance
work/play/friends/rest/time with Jesus