

# Forty years, and looking forward

Mercy Ships 2018 Annual Report





# From the Chairman of the Board

Dear Friends,

Young Don and Deyon Stephens wanted to change the world! They were living in Switzerland when they had a dream of having hospital ships that could provide hope and healing to the forgotten poor. They envisioned a crew of the highest level of doctors, dentists, nurses, cooks, seaman, and engineers — all volunteering to serve at their own expense without regard to race, color, sex, or creed.

Their dream took root in October 1978 when a Swiss bank assisted in a \$1 million loan to acquire the recently retired classic Italian liner *Victoria* for scrap value. Thus started a journey to equip and upgrade the ship to become a floating hospital to care for those who had little expectation of finding critical medical care.

Don and Deyon's vision and passion for caring became a reality on July 7, 1982 as the *m/v Anastasis* (meaning "Resurrection") made its maiden voyage. 2018 marked the 40th anniversary of Mercy Ships! We look back with gratitude for our dedicated volunteers, our faithful donors, and for God's hand of blessing on our work. For 40 years, Mercy Ships has provided free surgical and medical care to some of the world's poorest countries.

For its 11<sup>th</sup> year of service, our current hospital ship, the *Africa Mercy*, served the people of Cameroon and Guinea. During 2018, we provided over 2,500 life-saving surgeries and 32,000 critical dental procedures. Mentoring was

provided to 87 local medical professionals, as well as specific training courses for more than 1,300 local healthcare professionals.

The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery reports that more than 18 million people die every year due to lack of timely surgical care — and a vast number of these people live in sub-Saharan Africa! We want to do more to meet this critical need. To achieve that purpose, a new hospital ship, the *m/v Global Mercy* is being built and nearing completion. It will be twice the size of the *Africa Mercy*. Together, these "state-of-the-art" floating hospitals will more than double our impact in Africa — not only with surgical care, but also in training healthcare professionals in the countries we serve. Importantly, host nations can better serve their own people as our ships leave their port.

On behalf of our International Board of Directors, staff and crew, I want to thank you for partnering with us in delivering hope and healing where it is so desperately needed. As we look back with gratitude and forward with anticipation, we value your ongoing support.



Sincerely,



— Myron E. Ullman, III  
Chairman of the Board, Mercy Ships International



# From the Founder

I like to look to the future. One of the lessons I have learned is that if you keep moving forward and keep persevering you will find a way. However, this is the 40th anniversary year of Mercy Ships and it would be wrong not to reflect on the journey that has made us what we are today. It is a journey that we are still traveling and one that makes us stronger as we go forward.

When I look back, I can't help but shake my head in wonder. There were a few bumps along the road, but together we have overcome them all. I am so thankful and humbled by what we have achieved. We have seen more than 97,000 life-changing surgeries, over 42,000 local healthcare professionals trained, and over 445,000 dental procedures — and we are so grateful for the countless lives who have been impacted.

However, there is so much more to do. So many people suffer from preventable diseases and lack of safe, surgical care around the globe. We can and will do more to help. We have become more and more effective at what we do. We are currently building the *Global Mercy*, our first purpose-built hospital ship. I see no reason to stop there.

To everyone who has been part of our journey, who has served so willingly, offering so much to those who have so little, and to those who will be a part of our future, thank you.



— Don Stephens  
Founder



IMAGES: Left: The *Africa Mercy*.  
Right: Don Stephens, founder of Mercy Ships.





# Mercy Ships — Bringing Hope and Healing

A faith-based international development organization, Mercy Ships deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering free, vital healthcare to people in desperate need.

In addition to completing thousands of urgent operations onboard its floating hospital, the *Africa Mercy*, Mercy Ships works closely with host nations to improve the way healthcare is delivered across the country — by training and mentoring local medical staff, and renovating hospitals and clinics.

Founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 56 countries, providing services valued at more than \$1 billion. Mercy Ships delivers a customized five-year partnership model with every country it is invited to support with the aim to tackle the root causes of the problems rather than just the consequences.

Mercy Ships follows the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus by bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor, helping people of all faiths.

## Mission

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

## Vision

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to transform individuals and serve nations one at a time.

## Values

Following the model of Jesus, we seek to:

- Love God.
- Love and serve others.
- Be people of integrity.
- Aim for excellence in all we say and do.

# From the Chief Executive Officer

Launching a new ship like the *Global Mercy* is an incredible opportunity for Mercy Ships for many reasons. We can't just slowly scale up to operate two ships, so senior management has been diligently looking for areas of improvement in our support systems to ensure that we can rapidly scale. The long-term benefit is that we will pursue our program objectives with increased efficiency, quality, and professionalism, resulting in better outcomes and opportunities to partner with our host nations. We believe we will be realizing the 'wake' of this new ship for years to come.



It goes without saying that improving our standards is not just about operational and program impact as we look at ourselves; but in the greater context, there is tremendous potential in Africa. This year I was able to travel several times to visit our crew, establish new relationships for future partnerships, and celebrate recent accomplishments. As I look back, I was repeatedly struck by the level of hope that I encountered. There are a lot of positive changes in Africa. The world-class care that we are giving to patients onboard our ships is constantly bringing us to the question: How do we work together to use the momentum we see to grow the capacity of the healthcare systems in the countries in which we work?

It is both an exciting time in Mercy Ships, and to be serving in Africa. On behalf of all of our patients, host nations, staff, and crew, we want to express our deepest thanks. The pages of this annual report reflect the cumulative effort for which no one entity can take credit for, and so we hope you feel a part of this year's theme as we celebrate together, "Forty Years and Looking Forward!"

— Donovan Palmer  
Chief Executive Officer

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**IMAGES:** Above: Isatu, before surgery onboard the *Africa Mercy*. Far right: Isatu smiles brightly after her tumor was removed.





# The year in review: 2018

Mercy Ships — changing the lives of thousands through the promise of hope, the restoration of healing, and the power of heart.



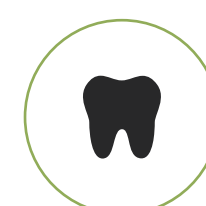
22,146

Potential patients screened for surgery



2,522

Life-changing surgical procedures provided



32,017

Dental procedures provided



8,998

Unique dental patients



1,369

Healthcare professionals trained through courses



87

Healthcare professionals mentored



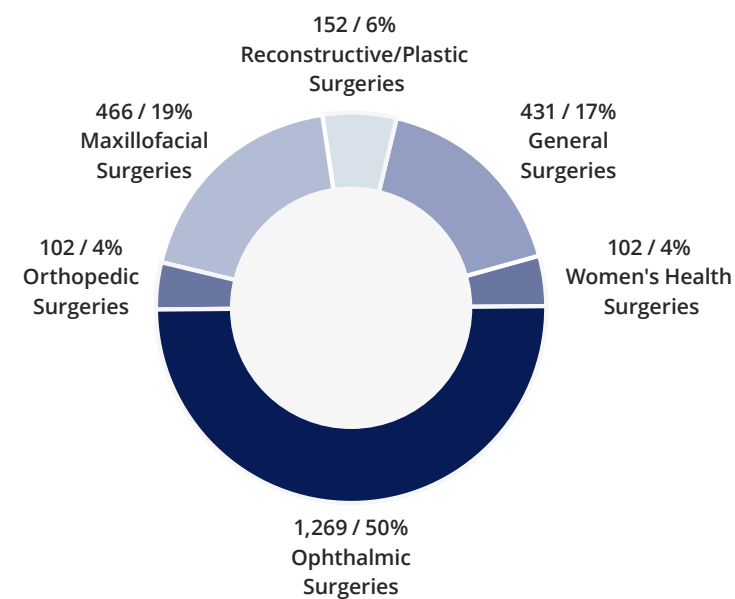
56

Nations represented by crew



1,299

Unique volunteer crew



Our volunteer crew are the hands of mercy for thousands of people every year. Our surgical specialties are tailored to meet the needs of the people we serve — people who most likely would never have access to, or be able to afford reliable, healthcare or surgery.

In addition to providing life-transforming surgeries and medical care, our professional medical volunteers provide training and mentoring programs to local medical professionals. These educational programs aim to teach and improve existing skills in ways that are practical, relevant, and sustainable.



# The volunteer model

In 2018, over 1,200 volunteer crew, from 56 different nations, served onboard the *Africa Mercy* — a truly international team working and living alongside one another — with up to 400 individual volunteers at work on the ship at any one time.

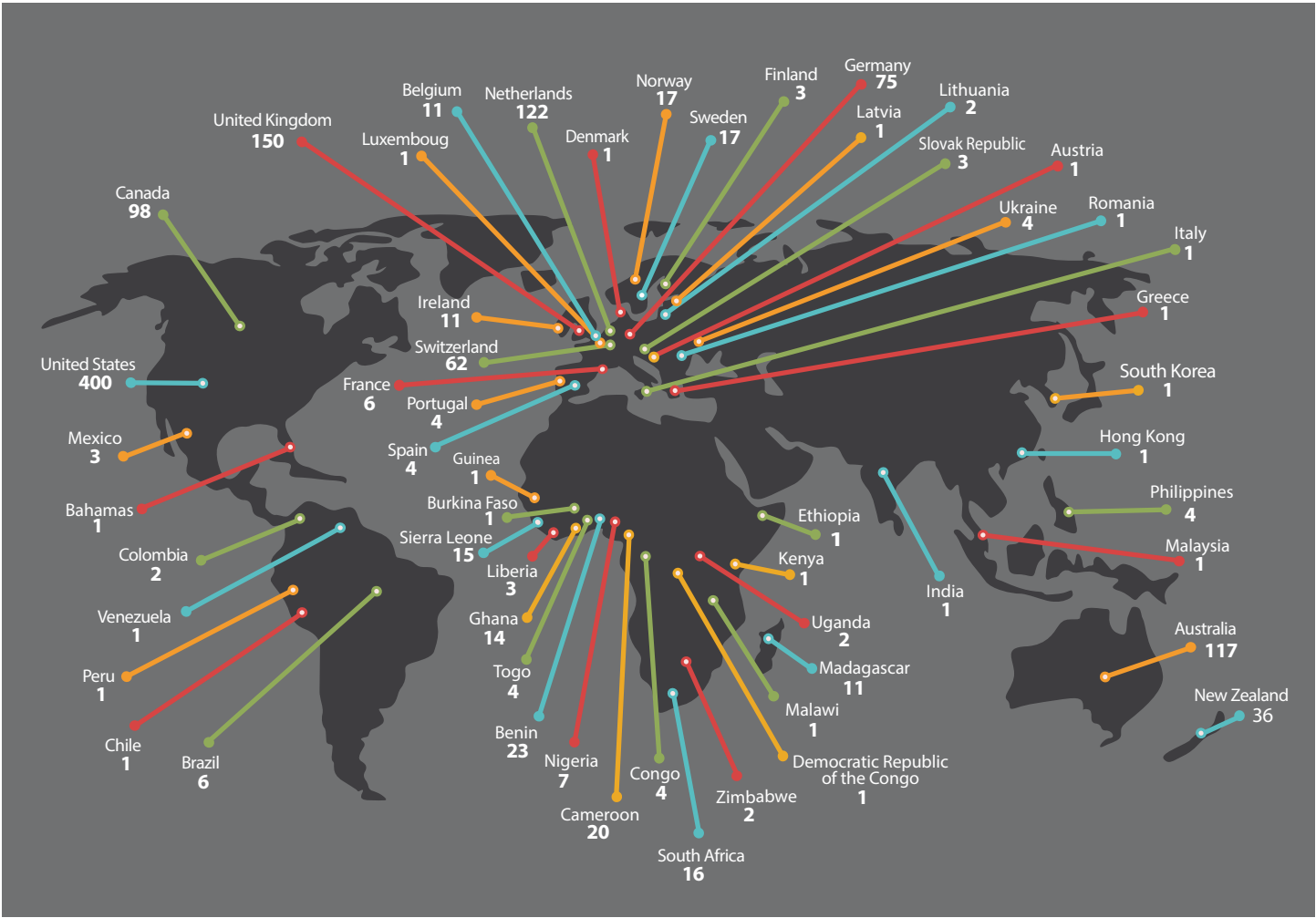
Volunteers serving with Mercy Ships contribute monthly crew fees and raise their own finances to live and work onboard. This means that funding received is complimented by contributed services and gift-in-kind, enabling Mercy Ships to deliver medical and development services at a fraction of the cost.

From medical professionals, to galley staff, housekeepers, to IT experts, maritime officers, to security, and vehicle maintenance — each crew member is an integral part of bringing hope and healing.

Along with the many volunteers serving onboard the *Africa Mercy*, our work would not be possible without the help of DayCrew (African nationals) who serve with us. Over 500 individual DayCrew served onboard in 2018. From working in the maritime department, to acting as translators for our surgeons and patients, the DayCrew serve throughout the ship filling many vital roles, all while gaining professional experience.

DayCrew members learn to work in a multicultural environment and receive additional vocational training while onboard. Our goal is to provide a tangible expression of the partnership Mercy Ships has with the African nations in which we serve by helping prepare our DayCrew to find lasting jobs long after we've left port.


IMAGES: Below: A map showing 2018 national representation by volunteer crew. Upper right: Nurse Meggin Tallman and a patient enjoying some recreation time on Deck 7. Lower right: Guinean translator, Marie, interacting with a child.





# Cameroon

January – June 2018



From January to June, Mercy Ships continued the second half of service in Cameroon. In addition to life-transforming surgeries, Mercy Ships provided training and mentoring to local medical professionals. This increase of knowledge and skills for the local healthcare system will leave a positive, long-term impact long into the future.

Mercy Ships partnered with the Ministry of Public Health in Cameroon to provide a variety of capacity building projects aimed at strengthening the local surgical capacity and improving access to safe, affordable, and timely surgery. One of the projects, Anesthesia Provider Mentoring, was designed by Mercy Ships to bolster Cameroon's surgical ecosystem and thereby meet the needs of the nation's overall healthcare system.

This mentoring of anesthesia providers and nurses took place onboard the *Africa Mercy* for over 37 weeks. When possible, mentoring was held in local hospitals allowing facilitators to observe and offer feedback and suggestions on areas for growth.

Mentoring participants reported a significant increase in knowledge and technical skills, as well as the value of experiencing a different work environment. Many shared about the lack of equipment in local hospitals but they were excited to implement the lessons learned regarding patient care.

At the completion of the mentoring program, anesthesia equipment, including an ultrasound machine, was donated to the local hospital in order to help ensure the continued practice of regional anesthesia and long-term sustainability of this project.



## Fadimatou's New Reason to Smile

Thirteen years of looking different from everyone else had taken a toll on Fadimatou's confidence. Her place in society, even her sense of belonging among her 14 siblings was questioned because of her cleft lip.

Filled with desperation, her journey with Mercy Ships began when she and her father made the 18-hour trek from their village to the coast of Cameroon. Ahead of them was her once-in-a-lifetime chance at transformation.

Her father had waited 13 long years to find help for his little girl. A surgery that took an hour to complete on the *Africa Mercy* resulted in a life changed forever.

Fresh out of surgery, her emotional transformation began. Fadimatou, who once could barely keep eye contact, was now hungry for interaction. Each day, her physical scars healed alongside her wounds of shame and embarrassment.

While once doing everything possible to go unnoticed, Fadimatou now has a reason to hold her head high — a new reason to smile. Filled with pride and hope for the future, she shines with a confidence she's never had before.

## A Lasting Legacy: Biomedical Equipment Training

In regions of West and Central Africa, biomedical equipment, essential to any hospital, is scarce, and often in poor working condition. Mercy Ships partnered with Medical Aid International to find a creative and sustainable way to address this issue.

Mercy Ships and Medical Aid International conducted two, eight-week courses, training 13 participants from various Cameroonian hospitals to properly maintain and repair medical equipment. The participants were trained to teach others, allowing locals to take ownership of their own healthcare landscape and have a tangible impact in their own nation's well-being.

State-of-the-art equipment was also donated to local hospitals, including a renovated biomedical workshop to be used by the Ministry of Health. "I've really appreciated this training course ... it's very practical," Salomon Kodna Kwete, a biomedical technician working at a local Cameroonian hospital said. "They [Mercy Ships] make sure you really know what you're doing and how the tools work. They take time to teach you the basics."

**IMAGES:** Far left: Dr. Cherian training a local doctor in anesthesia practices. (This page) Upper left: Fadimatou, before and after her cleft lip surgery. Below: Local biomedical technicians receiving training.





# Justine Stands Tall

Your support helps transform lives.

If anyone tells Justine she can't do something, she'll find a way to prove them wrong. This 11-year-old has the heart of a lioness — fearless and fiery. "Can't" doesn't seem to be in her vocabulary.

Her strength sparked pride in her grandfather's heart ... but also great concern. Justine was born with bowed legs, a congenital condition that causes the bones in the legs to twist so that the knees are farther apart than the ankles. As time progressed, instead of getting better as her family hoped, Justine's condition worsened. Eventually, her feet were bent backwards entirely, making it difficult for her to walk or stand for long periods of time.

But spunky Justine seemed unaware of the severity of her condition. Undeterred, she dreamed of one day running, jumping rope, and climbing guava trees with her friends.

"She never seemed to understand that her legs didn't work like the other children's," her grandfather said. "I was afraid for her when she would try to climb trees or play. I would think, 'If her legs get broken for good, what is she going to do?'"

Going to school was a challenge. Her grandfather had to arrange transportation for her since she couldn't walk the two and a half miles to school each day with her older siblings. On days when transportation fell through, she would spend hours painstakingly making her way to school, stopping frequently for breaks. Life seemed like an unending uphill battle for this girl with a brave spirit and boundless potential ...

... Until the day they heard about Mercy Ships. They made their way to the *Africa Mercy*, and when they arrived, it only seemed fitting that Justine was the first patient up the gangway of the hospital ship on opening day. She had to be carried up the steps, but her smile revealed a confidence that one day soon, she would be able to walk down them by herself.

The surgery to straighten her twisted legs was only the beginning of a long recovery process. She spent weeks in casts. Sitting still was a challenge, but she patiently spent her time collecting stickers and brushing up on her drawing skills. Finally, her casts were off, and her physical therapy could begin.

Hours spent in rehabilitation brought Justine closer to her goal of walking crutch-free on her newly straightened legs. Before long, she was striding like a champion — smiling widely, ready to grab the attention of anyone near her. "Watch me!" her sparkling eyes seemed to shout. She was proud of her ever-increasing mobility.

"It leaves me speechless to see her walking around like this," her grandfather said. "It's a miracle."

The recovery process wasn't simple. Complications meant that, although she was the first patient up the gangway, she was also one of the last orthopedic patients discharged. But in only five months, Justine's legs were straight, and her bold spirit was undeterred.

This courageous girl might conquer the world someday. But, for now, it's the little things that she can't wait to accomplish ... fetching water, helping wash clothes and clean house, and going to school ... things that were once impossible for her.

Justine now has more than just straight legs — she faces a future that's full of potential for a brave and confident girl, saying, "There's nothing I can't do!"

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**IMAGES:** *Left:* Justine before her surgery onboard the *Africa Mercy*. *Right:* Standing tall, Justine proudly shows off her straightened legs. *Front cover:* Justine is carried up the gangway to receive her surgery.





# Guinea

August – December 2018




Following two years of collaboration, relationship building, and assessing the need after signing protocol, Mercy Ships returned to Guinea for the fifth time, docking in Conakry on August 11, 2018, and will remain in service there until June 2019.

In Guinea, health centers provide basic medical care, such as maternal health and early childhood development programs. Yet over half of the centers in Guinea, are considered to be in poor condition by the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene. Mercy Ships identified and renovated Boulbinet Health Center in Conakry as the site for the HOPE Center, an off-ship extended recovery facility. Renovation work included modernization of the building and the addition of bathrooms and showers to support the 120 bed spaces. At completion of the field service, the facility will be turned back over to the government. Renovation work began in June 2018 and ended August 2018.

Renovations were also made at the Odonto-Stomato de la Faculté de Médecine de L'Université Gamal. The structure was originally built over 20 years ago and has

served as Guinea's only dental school. Prior to the renovations, the building did not even have proper practicum clinic space for students to see patients.

Mercy Ships, now utilizing the facility as a dental clinic, provided repairs and renovations in line with the future plans for the dental school, including installation of a water well, septic tank, windows, roof, electrical wiring, and more. After the *Africa Mercy* departs Conakry, the facility will be returned to the dental school for its continued training purposes, increasing the project's overall sustainability.

The Mercy Ships Dental Clinic provides preventative, restorative, and surgical treatment for men, women, and children who are unable to receive dental care. This project offers critical dental services and treatment to thousands of persons throughout each field service. Mercy Ships also provides educational opportunities on basic dental hygiene to groups of waiting patients and caregivers.

**IMAGE:** Above: Maxillofacial patient Isatu (also pictured on pp. 4, 5) after surgery. Opposite Left: Samory, before and after his tumor removal surgery. Opposite right: Patient receiving treatment from lead dentist, volunteer, Dr. David Ugai.



## Samory's Transformation

For Samory, he never imagined that neglecting a toothache would result in a facial tumor that threatened to take away his dreams and his life.

Samory knew that there was not much hope. He was from a rural village and was unable to get medical aid. His mother tried to treat his tumor with traditional remedies, but to no avail. "The worst part was knowing that it was only going to get worse because there was nothing we could do," Samory said.

With every passing day, the pain grew; it got so bad that Samory decided to make the journey to the capital to seek help, even though he knew he could not afford it. But when he reached Conakry, he heard the good news he so desperately needed — a ship that would perform free surgeries had arrived in his home country!

Thanks to his courage, ambition, and the gift of safe, free surgery onboard the *Africa Mercy*, Samory's dreams were rekindled! "I am looking forward to picking up my studies again so I can become a mathematics teacher, just like I wanted to be before the pain began," Samory said. "Life is good once again!"

## A Hope-Filled Smile

For many people in Africa, the ability to have simple dental procedures done is rare due to a lack of availability. Without proper and timely treatment, oral infections can contribute to a range of health complications, including tumors arising from problems in tooth enamel. By training local dental students in a hands-on learning environment, Mercy Ships is working to change that.

Dr. David Ugai, from Minnesota, volunteers as the lead dentist for the Medical Capacity Building (MCB) program in dentistry. Partnering with the Guinean Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, Mercy Ships provides mentoring and courses to faculty and students at the Gamal Abdel Nasser University — the only dental school in Guinea.

"Working with the dentists and dental students has been a mutually beneficial learning project," Dr. Ugai said. "The dentists and students are very equipped and motivated to provide excellent care for their patients... It has been a privilege and honor to work alongside these very skilled professionals."

When the field service ends in June of 2019, Mercy Ships will hand over a renovated, equipped and, fully-functioning dental clinic to the university. It is designed so that future generations of Guinean dentists are properly equipped to provide quality care to patients so that those in need will no longer suffer from preventable dental problems.





# Seeing the Future

## Medical Capacity Building Spotlight

On her first day as a mentee in the *Africa Mercy* ophthalmic Operating Room, Dr. Patricia Eyoup Sen was shaking in her medical scrubs.

"I was so nervous... this was such a new experience," she said. While she'd received years of classroom education in both Mali and Cameroon, the Mercy Ships O.R. was her first time participating in an actual surgery.

It was the beginning of a three-month journey with the Mercy Ships Medical Capacity Building program that would change everything.

Dr. Patricia calls ophthalmology her "destiny," but is acutely aware that, even with the proper education,

opportunities to turn her surgical dreams into a reality were extremely rare. When she heard about the ophthalmic mentoring available on the *Africa Mercy* during the 2018 field service in Cameroon, she was thrilled to participate.

Over the course of three months, Dr. Patricia participated in over 300 surgeries onboard — 150 of which were independent surgeries featuring her as the lead surgeon.

Beyond the value of practicing surgical procedures, Dr. Patricia says many of her biggest takeaways came from conversations with Dr. Glenn Strauss, who was then serving as a volunteer ophthalmic surgeon.



"I learned to be focused on every single patient. When you do so many surgeries right after each other, it can be easy for it to become automatic," Dr. Patricia said. "Dr. Glenn told me that even though he's done thousands of these surgeries, he treats each case like they're different, and he never relaxes. Everything changed after that conversation."

As her mentoring came to an end, Dr. Patricia was ready to apply everything she had learned by creating a space for renewed eye care and restored vision in Garoua, a remote river city in northern Cameroon.

She decided to partner with the Regional Hospital of Garoua by reviving their eye clinic, which had been inoperative for almost 20 years due to a lack of ophthalmic specialists. Mercy Ships MCB staff came alongside her to help train nurses from the area — three of whom would return to Dr. Patricia's clinic. The course involved classroom training, mentoring in proper surgical preparation, taking care of surgical equipment, and the opportunity to participate in two daily surgeries.

Now successfully up and running for the first time in two decades, the clinic serves patients with ophthalmic needs such as prescribing and providing glasses and caring for inflammation, glaucoma, and cataracts.

While she says mentoring can be difficult and time-consuming, Dr. Patricia has learned first-hand from staff onboard the *Africa Mercy* that it's worth the effort.

Less than a year after Dr. Patricia was mentored onboard, she decided to return to the *Africa Mercy*, now in Guinea — but this time, as a volunteer surgeon. During her two weeks volunteering, she performed cataract surgeries for 85 patients.

"I came back to serve with Mercy Ships in Guinea because I wanted to improve my practice, and I wanted to serve people who need help for blindness," she said. "I feel blessed to be able to give sight to people — it's a great opportunity to help people, and I'm very thankful."



Dr. Patricia would be the first one to tell you that her time on the ship helped mold her into the surgeon she is today — but it's not what took place onboard that really matters. It's what happens after she leaves.

One of the first surgeries she was able to perform at her clinic in Garoua was for a young mother who'd long been blinded by cataracts.

"A while after her surgery this mama returned to the clinic and gave me a gift of a spiritual book," Dr. Patricia shared. "She wanted to bless me to be strong and continue performing surgeries so that others' lives could be changed the way hers had been."

"The lasting impact of Mercy Ships goes far beyond me. All the doctors and nurses that have been trained can now go on to help the whole country."

**IMAGES:** Left: Dr. Patricia Eyoup Sen being mentored by Dr. Glenn Strauss. Right: Dr. Sen performing surgery onboard.





**Interview:**  
Mercy Ships President Rosa Whitaker

## Mercy Ships: A Lasting Impact

*Rosa Whitaker became Mercy Ships President in June 2018, taking over from the founder, Don Stephens. Rosa is a champion of Africa who has been recognized for her work for the continent numerous times. She is passionate about empowering the people and nations of Africa to shape their continent's rise on the global stage.*

### What do you see for the future of Africa in transforming its health systems?

**R** My dream is that when historians come to tell the story of the 21st Century, Africa's emergence as a dynamic engine of global growth and prosperity will be one of their major themes. Many interlocking pieces have to fall into place for that dream to be realized. One of those pieces, a critically important one, is health.

Mercy Ships is doing more than providing much-needed health treatment and life-saving surgeries, we are providing medical training, establishing health partnerships, catalyzing health infrastructure development — leaving a legacy and a culture of care when we disembark. We understand that the value of a human life is incalculable. We bring that awareness with us everywhere we go.

Our practices are increasingly being adopted and incorporated into newly devised and more comprehensive healthcare systems in African countries.

Increasingly, African governments not only have to adopt plans that ensure holistic and equitable medical systems, they have to have institutions that educate and train doctors, nurses, and medical personnel at all levels.

I believe that African governments can meet this challenge if there are models that are developed and financed that factor in the specific needs, resources, cultures and capacity of each country. Additionally, there have to be visionary and compassionate leaders in place who are cognisant of the God-given and inalienable rights of each of their citizens to health.

### How do you see the future of Mercy Ships and our role alongside African organizations?

**R** Increasingly Mercy Ships is recognized as committed, long-term partners of the health authorities, practitioners, institutions, and NGOs in the countries where we operate. I see our partnerships in Africa deepening, especially in the training and mentoring arena, as we move forward and as our own capacity grows with the addition of our new ship.

### What inspires you in your work?

**R** I am inspired by my faith, by the faith, generosity, love, and energy of our amazing volunteers and supporters, and by the extraordinary grace, courage, and resilience of the people of the continent that calls me.

What also inspires me is what Mercy Ships does to save the lives of vulnerable Africans, in particular children. I have seen the difference Mercy Ships has made in correcting serious, debilitating birth defects and crippling injuries and in dealing with the ramifications of people living in unhealthy and dangerous environments.



"Having been President for 40 years, I couldn't be more excited about handing the reins to Rosa Whitaker. Her faith and dedication to the continent and peoples of Africa is truly humbling and Rosa's leadership in Africa is recognized by all." —Don Stephens, Founder



The fact that Mercy Ships keeps moving forward with its mission and continues to take positive action in alleviating suffering and in addressing the plight of the those most in need, unfettered by dire circumstances and statistics, inspires not only me, but countless other people.

At a time when some have grown complacent or uncaring about the fate of the most vulnerable among us, Mercy Ships remains true to its Christian calling to serve the poor and downtrodden.

### What are the biggest challenges Mercy Ships should tackle that we are not yet tackling?

**R** Mercy Ships never leaves a port without all of us wishing we could have done more, reached more patients, and changed more lives. The challenge is to leave behind the knowledge, skills, inspiration and tools that enable our partners to keep doing the "more" that we wished we had done. Sustainability and reach are big challenges. We are tackling them but they are multifaceted, requiring constant attention and imagination. There's still a lot of tackling still to do and always will be.

### You have talked about "smart aid" in the past. How do you rate Mercy Ships impact on the ground?

**R** Smart aid is aid that respects recipients, listens to and understands them and consciously seeks to make itself unnecessary. It is the opposite of aid that is designed, as is too often the case, for the benefit of the donor. I am deeply proud of the selflessness of the Mercy Ships model and of the compassion, humility, dedication and empathy our volunteers bring to their mission.

I would go so far as to say that Mercy Ships is the best possible example of "smart aid." One needs only to review our history and achievements on page 21. Often times, those of us who are an integral part of Mercy Ships forget the enormous contributions that have been made thus far.

And, we have done all this using a model unusual in the philanthropic world. With a few minor exceptions, everyone aboard our ship — and soon to be ships — from surgeons to cooks and other support staff has not only volunteered their time but are paying the full cost of being onboard with their own funds or funds they have raised themselves. This maximizes the bang our donors, and partners get for their euros, dollars and other investments.

If you want to put a number on the value of the services and materials Mercy Ships has donated over the years, our accountants say it is in the order of \$1.5 billion, impacting more than 2.5 million direct beneficiaries. But can we put a price on what that \$1.5 billion has purchased? No. You cannot put a price on hope and happiness. You cannot put a price on the joy that a mother experiences when her baby girl's cleft palate is repaired, enabling the child to be breast-fed and sparing her from a lifetime of humiliation. You cannot put a price on what a young boy feels when bandages are removed from his eyes and he finds his sight restored.

These contributions go far beyond "smart aid" as they catapult Mercy Ships to the highest level of philanthropy and service.

**IMAGES:** Cleft palate patient, Mohammed with his mother. Below left: Don Stephens.





# 40 Years of Mercy and Looking Forward

Mercy Ships has provided services and materials in developing nations valued at more than \$1 billion.

The Mercy Ships story is continually evolving. Beginning as nothing more than our Founders' combination of dreams, prayers, and aspirations, it has steadily evolved into the organization that is seen today. For the past 40 years, our dedicated volunteers and partners have provided excellent, free surgical care to thousands of people living in the developing nations we serve. As we turn the page on this incredible story, we look forward to the next chapter that will see us launch a new vessel that will bring hope and healing to countless more people — helping to change and rewrite their stories for an even better future.



56  
Developing nations  
visited



597  
Port visits  
by our ships



97,000+  
Life-changing surgical  
procedures provided



665,000+  
Dental procedures  
provided



42,800+  
Professionals trained in  
their field of expertise



6,425+  
Healthcare professionals  
trained to train others



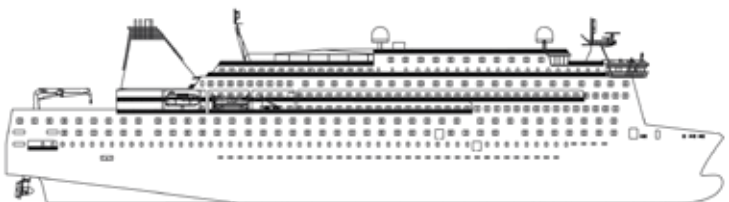
1,100+  
Community development  
projects completed



2.7+ million  
Lives impacted

## The new ship

A new ship, *Global Mercy*, is currently being built by Mercy Ships in China that will more than double the ability of the organization to deliver direct medical care, while also increasing the potential for medical capacity building projects. The 12-deck, hospital ship will contain six operating rooms, more than 190 beds, and accommodation for more than 640 crew.





# Governance—

## Mercy Ships International Board of Directors



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**President**  
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Ascot, Berkshire England, UK



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Attorney at Law  
Austin, TX, USA

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Kingston, ON Canada

\* Executive Committee Member

## Mercy Ships National Offices

**Mercy Ships**  
**International Support Center**  
PO Box 2020  
Garden Valley, TX 75771-2020  
United States of America  
www.mercyships.org

**Mercy Ships**  
**Global Association**  
Chemin de la Fauvette 98  
1012 Lausanne  
Switzerland  
www.mercyshipsglobal.org

**Mercy Ships Australia**  
PO Box 1080  
Caloundra, Queensland 4551  
Australia  
www.mercyships.org.au

**Mercy Ships Belgium**  
Excelsiorlaan 89/2  
B-1930 Zaventem  
Belgium  
www.mercyships.be

**Mercy Ships Canada**  
Unit 5 - 3318 Oak St.  
Victoria, BC V8X 1R1  
Canada  
www.mercyships.ca

**Mercy Ships Denmark**  
Jernbaekvej 6, Ramloese  
DK 3200 Helsingør  
Denmark  
www.mercyships.dk

**Mercy Ships France**  
Buioparc Aéroport  
Chemin de Colovrex  
01210 Ferney-Voltaire  
France  
www.mercyships.fr

**Mercy Ships Germany**  
Rudolf-Diesel-Str.5  
DE - 86899 Landsberg am Lech  
Germany  
www.mercyships.de

**Mercy Ships Holland**  
Ridderkerkstraat 20  
3076 JW Rotterdam  
The Netherlands  
www.mercyships.nl

**Mercy Ships Korea**  
303 Eujin Building  
8, Seolleung-ro 125-gil  
Gangnam-gu, Seoul 06099  
South Korea  
www.mercyships.or.kr

**Mercy Ships New Zealand**  
PO Box 13673  
Onehunga  
Auckland 1643  
New Zealand  
www.mercyships.org.nz

**Mercy Ships Norway**  
Markensgate 48  
4612 Kristiansand S  
Norway  
www.mercyships.no

**Mercy Ships South Africa**  
4 Athlone Building  
Cnr Cromer and Henley Roads  
Muizenberg, Cape Town  
7945  
South Africa  
www.mercyships.co.za

**Mercy Ships Spain**  
Naves de Esperanza  
Apartado 15001  
08080 Barcelona,  
Spain  
www.nde.es

**Mercy Ships Sweden**  
Box 7008  
402 31 Göteborg  
Sweden  
www.mercyships.se

**Mercy Ships Switzerland**  
Maison de Rovéréaz  
Chemin de la Fauvette 98  
CH 1012 Lausanne  
Switzerland  
www.mercyships.ch

**Mercy Ships United Kingdom**  
The Lighthouse  
12 Meadway Court  
Stevenage, Hertfordshire,  
SG1 2EF  
United Kingdom  
www.mercyships.org.uk

\*To request a financial report for the year 2018,  
please contact: [development@mercyships.org](mailto:development@mercyships.org)







P.O. Box 2020 | Garden Valley, TX 75771-2020 | USA  
903-939-7000 | [mercyships.org](https://www.mercyships.org)

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