



GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

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In November we left Mt Lemmon, Az. and headed east to Lindale, Texas and Mercy Ships. Lindale is the International Operations Center for the world-wide ministry that has been helping the world's forgotten poor by offering free medical treatments, surgeries, training and much more since 1980. Currently the ship "Africa Mercy" berthed off the coast of Cameroon, Africa has a volunteer staff of 484 servants. Each volunteer on the ship is there to live out the command of Jesus to help those in need.

Here in east Texas there are 200+ staff and volunteers that make it possible for those on the ship to do the surgeries and other ministries they do everyday. Every volunteer that works on the ship spends 6-8 weeks here completing ship specific training before arriving to the final destination: Africa. As you can imagine there are many things that happen here to accommodate all of those volunteers.



Dining Room

The campus has a large kitchen/dining room to feed all those volunteers and staff. Cindy enjoyed her time with the staff as she helped out in the kitchen. slicing vegetables, washing dishes, scrubbing walls and floors, and learning cooking secrets from chef Todd. Cindy's servant heart

combined with the gift of helps from the Holy Spirit enables her to Glorify Jesus by radiating the Gospel Light through her willingness to do whatever the Lord asks of her with a good attitude. The kitchen staff is fond of her and compliments her and wishes she could stay on with them full-time.

Bill got to work outside, doing what he loves. Mercy Ships has a 400+ acre facility. In being good stewards of the Lord's land they have cows on the many pastures to provide income and keep the land from returning to forrest. Bill helped Alan rebuild pasture fences.



The farm also has laying hens and Bill enjoyed caring for them and gathering the eggs. In this situation Mercy Ships is doing what we did in Belize. We had sheep, rabbits, and laying hens to help us with the financial aspect of our ministry. When the Lord provides material things in our lives



it is up to us as stewards to fully utilize what He has given for the benefit of people, ministry and the gospel message. All of us in our daily personal walk with the Lord should utilize what the Lord provides in our lives to spread the Love of Jesus as best we can. So often blessings come to us and remain there, bound up in our selfishness, completely ineffectual for the purpose He gave them to us. Every gift is meant to be shared with those around us in our daily lives and in full-time ministry.

But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!" And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to Me." And ordering the multitudes to recline on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave to the multitudes, and they all ate, and were satisfied. And they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. And there were about five thousand men who ate, aside from women and children.

Matt. 14:16-20

In this example from our Lord, we see many spiritual truths that we should follow as children of God. First, Jesus commanded His disciples to provide for the multitudes, but He didn't say how. The disciples were confused and lacking the faith that was needed. Jesus then shows them that every good gift comes from the Father. Apart from God a few loaves and fish could never feed the number of people that were there, and yet it did with leftovers. We also see Jesus gave the food to the disciples to hand out. We should take what is given to us and multiply it for the many who need to see Jesus in our lives as a testimony to His Glory and Power. So many of us don't do this and miss out on the blessings the Lord wants to give us, for our earthy lives and heavenly rewards. Our hope is that you will seek ways to use all the Lord has given you to reach the lost just as Jesus did.

December

In December another SOWER couple, Glenn & Jackie joined us in Texas to help out with the work. It is great to have these two to fellowship with. It is always a pleasure to have strong Christians



living next door so we can visit and talk about Jesus and all that He has done in our lives. Glenn is helping me with the farm chores, building fences, and cleaning out cow stalls. Jackie is working with another volunteer doing landscaping.



We were replacing a barbed wire fence when the ATT man came by to mark the underground



cables. Once again God brought the ministry to us. Julio, had questions about what we were doing in Texas, so we explained we were missionaries serving the Lord where He places us. We were the third Christian God had put in his path. We prayed with him.



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