

# FRIEND SHIPS AUGUST 2019 ACTIVITIES REPORT

**FRIEND SHIPS at PORT MERCY**, 1019 North 1st Avenue, Lake Charles, LA 70601

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Dear Friend of Friend Ships:

Thank you for all you continue to do to help our work at Friend Ships. Thousands of people are blessed because of your help!

## MIDDLE EAST MEDICAL CAMP



We are in the final stages of working through the logistics for Friend Ships Camp Gaza and are able to start shipping additional tents and medical equipment from Port Mercy. We are closer to being able to purchase the new field hospital in Jordan that is available to us. Some of our Middle East team traveled to inspect the equipment and it is excellent! The facility is valued at \$450,000 but the owners are willing to sell it to us for \$100,000. It is brand new with six huge tent clinics, a 114kw generator, AC/Heaters for each tent, all lighting, floors, entryways and beds. It has never been used and is European power, just what we need for our Middle East facility. We have received \$48,000 so far and are blessed to have had a wonderful family offer to match funds that come in from this time forward. *Any new funds donated will double!*



## VENEZUELA/COLUMBIA

Two of our team flew to Columbia to meet with local organizations who are ministering at the border where hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans cross into Columbia looking for food, medicine and work.

These church groups are doing amazing ministry to help refugees, providing food, ministry and medical care. We also had an opportunity to meet with the government office in Bogotá that oversees aid to Venezuelans in Columbia. Having seen the excellent work being accomplished we are anxious to start sending containers and perhaps even one of our ships, providing supplies to help these groups continue to do an excellent work and to grow.



***Luke 14:13-14 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.***

## PORT MERCY



Project Paddle Wheel is starting to take form! We are acquiring materials and planning out the construction of a majestic gangway to span from ship to shore.

## SEA HAWKS

This ancient Hippos church at the Sea of Galilee (below) is the site where our teams assisted in excavation. We found ancient seals, columns, streets and more. What a thrilling experience that will be an ongoing part of Sea Hawks Israel! The next Sea Hawk session starts in September. Be sure to tell young adults who are interested in an exciting, intense mission and discipleship program to check out Sea Hawks on our website at [www.friendships.org](http://www.friendships.org).

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Tuesday, July 23, 2019 | Haaretz

## GALLERY גלריה

# Beautiful mosaics uncovered in ancient Hippos church

The 'burnt church' was set ablaze in the early seventh century. Ironically, that helped preserve its amazing floor designs

Ruth Schuster

Exquisitely preserved mosaics showing birds, animals, geometric forms and Greek dedications spelled so badly that the lingua franca of the locals has become disputable have been found in the "burnt church" in Hippos-Sussita of the Decapolis — the ruins of a city perched on a hilltop overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

However, whatever language the people of Hippos spoke, it can be said that the discoveries in the 20th season of excavations directed by Michael Eisenberg and Arleta Kowalewska of the Zaiman Institute of Archaeology at the University of Haifa support the central thesis that the city was the dominant Christian presence in the region.

The burnt church, better known to academics as the southwest church, is one of at least seven found in Antiochia Hippos (Sussita in Aramaic), which is now a national park managed by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority.



Excavators uncovering a mosaic at the "burnt church" in Hippos, overlooking Lake Kinneret, and a bronze door knocker from one of the church doors.



knockers could have been made in the Roman times and reused in the church.

The knockers had been on the main door, which burned, but the excavators exposed its charred remains leading to the nave, where they found dozens more nails and metal traces for the door, which however didn't survive. They also found a chitin made of iron that may have stretched over the side entrance, keeping the hot pits outside the church; they could watch the ceremony but not enter.

### In the name of the mouse-tailed bat

Hippos was ultimately destroyed by the great earthquake of 749, though by then its fortunes had waned. From the Early Islamic period in the early eighth century, it was no longer a thriving regional capital but an industrial town in decline.

The hilltop would enjoy a brief status resurrection in modern Israel, when the army stationed heavy artillery aimed at Syria — on

You can read this article at: <https://www.haaretz.com/archaeology/.premium.MAGAZINE-beautifully-preserved-mosaics-uncovered-in-ancient-hippos-church-1.7563590>

**STOREHOUSE ONE** in Southern California and Southwest Louisiana continues to distribute food each day to seniors, disabled people, veterans in need, low-income families and the homeless. Food distributed with prayer!

Below is a beautiful refrigerated truck that was donated this month to help us operate StoreHouse. One.



## HOW TO HELP

Prayer! Our true source of everything. Thank you for lifting up our missions and our needs. Specifically, we need rice and beans for Venezuelans and shipping expenses of \$3700 a container and funds to purchase the field hospital for Gaza. Friend Ships always has need of people to help long-term, short-term, local volunteers and Sea Hawks. Check out the opportunities at [www.friendships.org](http://www.friendships.org)