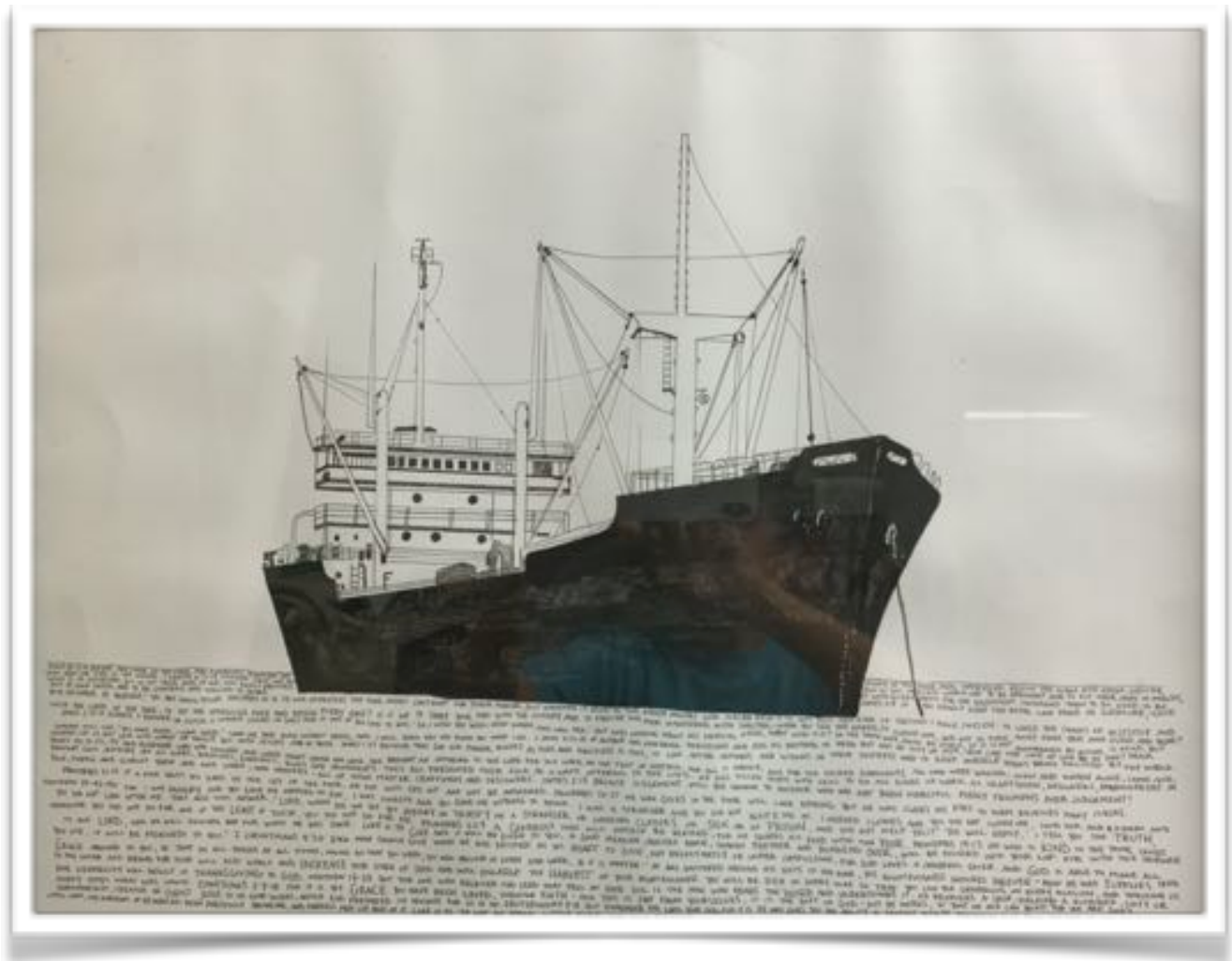


35 Great Years-From Jesus with Love!

FRIEND SHIPS ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Dear Friends: This October Friend Ships commemorated 35 years of working in ministry and walking with the Lord in His love, mercy and provision. With the help of people like you who are willing to serve, give and pray, we have been able to respond to God's call and over the years, help hundreds of thousands of people. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful work. Below is a beautiful painting created for us on our 30th anniversary by Sara Craven, a former crew member. It is the Spirit Ship and below it are the scriptures from the final chapter of our book, Jesus & Company, Part 1. These scriptures are the foundation upon which Friend Ships is built and the ships of mercy sail!



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It all started in early 1985 when the Lord dropped a vision into Don Tipton's heart. Get a ship and provide aid to people in desperate circumstances. No charge. From Jesus with Love.



During the almost five years of preparation, we were blessed to receive inspiration and encouragement from Rev. Agnes Numer of Somerhaven Ranch (at left, resting on a missions trip to Africa). Agnes was a woman of enormous faith and action who led by example. And with the leadership and direction of Jamie Saunders (pictured above left with his wife Debi) we were able to build this ministry into what it is today. In 1990, Friend Ship Spirit started on her missions of mercy. Over the next three decades, Spirit and her sister ships sailed throughout the world!



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Because of men like our great Captain Stan Langaker and Chief Engineer Wally Barber (pictured to the right), we have been able to navigate the seas with well-functioning ships and the crew safe, under their incredible knowledge. People in Central America, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras received thousands of tons of aid during civil unrest, hurricanes and extreme economic hardship.



In the Caribbean, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Antigua and Haiti received humanitarian aid, disaster relief and medical care during recovery from hurricanes and an earthquake in Haiti that took 300,000 lives and made 1,000,000 people homeless.



Voyages to West Africa delivered thousands of tons of food, medical equipment including a complete hospital and other needed items to Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Gambia and Angola.



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In the United States, under the able direction of Ray George, we birthed what grew to be a major outreach of Friend Ships. StoreHouse One is a surplus food collection program that for 16 years distributed enough food to prepare up to 150,000 meals a week in Los Angeles without fail. To date, the program has provided millions upon millions of pounds of food to the homeless, elderly, sick and other people in desperate circumstances. The Lord provided all and as always, His provision is perfect!



Two missions to Albania and Croatia brought food, medical supplies and other humanitarian aid-to Albania, just a few months after breaking free from 70 years of hard-line communism and to Croatia during a brutal civil war.

We sailed the Spirit on a historic voyage to the USSR, arriving in port a few hours ahead of President Gorbachev being captured and the start of the coup that toppled the Soviet Union. As tanks and soldiers flooded in and the Soviet Union began to crumble, the Friend Ships crew filled the streets bringing food, medical supplies and the message of the Gospel to people throughout Russia. Goods were distributed to many far-away places including Chernobyl, the devastated site of a nuclear power plant accident. In

the months to follow, commercial cargo shipments brought hundreds of tons of food to Moscow and St. Petersburg. In 1992 we were able to utilize a Soviet Antonov 124 aircraft to ship food and supplies to Moscow, in the very first airlift to free Russia.



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Two voyages to Israel delivered thousands of tons of aid that were shared equally with Palestinians in need and immigrants coming to Israel, creating a new life in the Jewish homeland from around the world. We made an impression on the Israelis with what impresses them most- action, not only words, as we worked to help the poor.



We thank God for our 7 ships that have allowed us to cross oceans with tons of supplies, free of charge. Above all, we thank God for our incredible volunteer crew that come from around the world to answer the call of our wonderful God who cares so much for people in need.

Friend Ships expanded operations to provide disaster relief. Commodity distribution, food service, flood rescue and other emergency aid is offered internationally and in the US-in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina and New York, to date. Thank you Lord for providing our helicopter that gives air support, flown by pilots George Mott and Ron Tipton.



Friend Ships Village was established and operated for many years in Honduras, a long term facility to provide disaster relief, job training, medical aid and spiritual support to people in need.



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Missions grew to include medical services, taking large scale clinics to Haiti, Honduras, the West Indies and the Middle East.

Under the awesome direction of Murray Douglas, we birthed Sea Hawks, a missions training program for young adults. Murray has led teams of Sea Hawks to many parts of the world, helping and serving people in need.



Recently, with the help of Middle East patriot and scholar Ambassador Ran Ichay, Camp Ichay was established on the border between Syria and Israel, in order to provide medical and humanitarian aid to Syrians during a devastating civil war. At present, a large health center is being birthed in Gaza under the steady direction of Sheray Morrison and Teri Shields.



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2020 This past year has been full of activity. A major focus has been preparing Gaza Health Center to provide medical services and humanitarian aid to Palestinians. We were also able to donate personal protective equipment to the medical community in Gaza for COVID-19 protection.

We distributed protective equipment within the Lake Charles community for pandemic response and donated a portable medical clinic to the fight against COVID in our community. We sent truckloads of disaster relief shelter materials to the Bahamas when they were ravaged by a major hurricane in August and donated aid to Haiti.



A class of amazing Sea Hawks graduated in August and we welcomed a new class who almost immediately entered demanding service in hurricane relief.

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Then came the powerful and destructive Hurricanes Laura and Delta, both of which made a direct hit on our home base. The Lord poured in the workers, food and supplies so that we were able to help the community with food service, commodities and prayer as we recovered from our own damage at Port Mercy.



In 2020, StoreHouse One continued to collect and distribute food to organizations helping poor families, homeless veterans, the elderly and those recovering from addictions, both in Los Angeles and in Louisiana. There is currently a temporary interruption in StoreHouse operations in Lake Charles because our donor stores are shut down due to the hurricanes in August.



We made good progress on preparing the RiverBoat at Port Mercy as a conference center and are anticipating many exciting and encouraging events.



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2021 We are looking forward to a productive 2021, focusing on five primary areas of ministry.

THE RIVERBOAT AT PORT MERCY The Polo Lounge Conference Room is ready for meetings and luncheons. This year we hope to complete 2-3 of the large “casino” area floors and the lovely outdoor top deck for special services. We will hold youth and missions conferences, training seminars, Christian music and prayer events among many other activities.



SEA HAWKS

In January 2021 a new Sea Hawk class will arrive, followed by our annual August session-building up young men and women to please the Lord, grow in Him, and prosper in every good work! Sea Hawk basic training is served in the US and mission work in the Middle East!

DISASTER RELIEF

We are refitting Friend Ship Integrity this year for continued service in international disaster relief as we carry on with US based hurricane, earthquake and flood response.



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GAZA HEALTH CENTER

A 10 acre medical and humanitarian aid facility in Northern Gaza will open in late 2020, with Family Day Clinics. In 2021, we plan to greatly expand services and hope to soon include cancer treatment, rheumatology, surgery, orthopedics, programs for disabled children and so much more.

STOREHOUSE ONE



Food collection and distribution to the homeless, elderly, impoverished and others within the US will continue from our Los Angeles outreach. We will resume the Lake Charles program as soon as our donor stores have made hurricane repairs and are back in operation. We are also blessed to be able to collect surplus food in Israel to support our operations in Gaza.

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There are so many ways that your help allows Friend Ships to provide for people who are sick, hungry, homeless, or otherwise in need.



Volunteer: Friend Ships has long term, full time volunteer positions available at Port Mercy in Lake Charles, Louisiana in construction, maritime operations, office, groundskeeping, food service, mechanics, domestics and warehousing. Gaza Health Center has volunteer positions available for medical staff and support crew.

Prayer: All that we accomplish at Friend Ships is propelled by prayer. Join our prayer team to receive regular prayer targets or simply include us in your prayers. There is no way to measure or express how extraordinary and effective this is. Your prayers are worth more than pure gold.

Giving: Friend Ships has ongoing monthly financial needs and special project related expenses. Giving funds is a great way to allow us to grow and fulfill with excellence the medical missions, food distribution, spiritual ministry, disaster relief and training projects we have before us. Because we are all volunteer, your gifts go far to meet the needs. This past year your donations allowed us to purchase the beautiful field hospital shown on the previous page for 1/4 of its value. In 2021, special needs will be dry dock funds for Friend Ship Integrity and we may have an opportunity to acquire additional property and warehousing adjacent to our base at Port Mercy.

For more information go to
www.friendships.org



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Matthew 25: 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'



Friend Ships

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