

Friend Ships

January-February 2024 Activities Report

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Dear Friends:

Thank you for all you do continually to help and bless us here at Friend Ships!

These past two months have been exciting as we start a new Middle East project. We've leased a large house as a base of operations in the South of Israel and will be working with the Mayor's office in Sderot to provide assistance to the community. Residents are now making the transition to return home after having had to flee in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of October 7th. There is a great need to help the elderly, families and individuals and our offer of assistance is warmly welcomed!



Friend Ships camps in Syria and Gaza above and Spirit of Grace enroute to Israel

Our history with Israel began twenty years ago when the Lord sent us on two voyages from Lake Charles to the Port of Ashdod with Spirit of Grace, loaded with thousands of tons of aid for Jewish people relocating to Israel from around the world. In 2017, we returned to Israel to work with the Israelis to bring aid to war refugees in Syria and later to Gaza.

Friend Ships

Since October our staff have been involved in providing food and supplies to local citizens in the North of Israel. Now, we look forward to bringing help to the communities who have been so devastated by the terrible atrocities and incessant bombing they endure in the South. If you would like to volunteer to work with our team, please email us at portmercy@friendships.org for more information. Also if you know a church group or other like-minded teams with the spirit to help Israelis, please contact us.

A word from Don Tipton: Has the Lord put Israel on your heart? Is He asking you to help the apple of His eye? Do you feel a call to say Yes I will, God, I want to, I have the faith and the courage and I will. We are badly needed. The time is now, an opportunity we've been waiting for. Shall we miss it or will we say "Here I am Lord. send me?" Your love will make a big difference even if it's for two weeks (a month would be better!). If you are unable to go, consider sending someone in your place. Let's be the soldiers we are called to be. Airline tickets from Houston to Tel Aviv are selling now for about \$1000.

At Port Mercy we've now started work on our disaster relief ship, Integrity. The Lord is bringing in the equipment we need to prepare the ship to go to dry dock. Our team will carry out all the work we can do at Port Mercy before sailing to the shipyard in Galveston, Texas.



Thank you! Because of people who volunteer., we are able to accomplish the physical work of the ministry. Because of those who give finances or material goods, we are able to support international efforts, provide food for needy US citizens, keep our trucks running, buy fuel and insurance, pay for the utilities to house our volunteer crew, purchase plane tickets, provide housing and food for volunteers both in the US and overseas and of course, provide critical services to people in need. Because of those who pray for us, our needs are continually lifted up to the Lord and we see His hand in every move we make. Thank you! You are our support team and we could not do it without your help.