

THANK YOU

For your prayers and support for us during our 'DTS,' our two month outreach in Mongolia and our plans to join the Mercy Ships.

We have good news to report - we have been accepted on the *MV Anastasis* and are joining next month for 2 years!!

We're very excited - things have worked out perfectly for us. The application procedure is pretty complicated and there is a waiting list for couples wanting to join the ship, as double cabins are very limited. Sarah from the Anastasis personnel department told us how amazing it was that we were accepted so quickly. "It's a real God thing", she said, "your application whizzed around without any hitches and you two are so needed right now." The Anastasis is now in Newcastle, England - and we will join it on August 5th. An extra good piece of news is that both Chris and Vicki's parents are coming to see the ship just before we leave England.



We will sail first to Germany, Norway and Belfast - advertising the ship's ministry and procuring funds and donations of medical and other equipment. During this time Vicki will be working with the children on the ship (there are 50 children resident on the Anastasis) helping first with the summer activity programme for school-aged children and then as pre-school staff. Chris will begin his job in the computer department - supporting the ship's email and computer system.

In October, the Anastasis will sail to Benin, West Africa for a 7 month outreach. This will be an intensive time of relief and development work, medical and dental clinics, evangelism and the life-changing eye and facial re-constructive operations in the hospital on board. As soon as the hospital is open Vicki will be nursing again, looking after the patients before and after their surgical procedures.

HOW WAS THE DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SCHOOL??

• Our DTS has been a wonderful experience., As well as investigating the difficulties of working cross-culturally, team dynamics and inter-personal skills, we have also had some Christian teaching on theology, apologetics and worldview. The chance to help with a local youth project was also good. We also really appreciated the chance to see something of Scotland and to do a bit of hiking in our spare time!

• Our time in Mongolia was also rewarding (although it had its challenges). We consider ourselves really privileged to have been a part of an excellent relief and development work there and to have seen and experienced such an amazing and diverse country. It was great that we had the chance to go to a culture that is so different from anything we have experienced before or are likely to encounter in Africa. Seeing the effects of communist domination and a Buddhist religion and the devastation of the harsh winter has broadened our experiences greatly.

WHAT NEXT?

For the next few weeks we are having a break - exploring some more of Scotland and then making a final visit to Guernsey before we sail with the ship. You can still contact us on our old email address - we'd love to hear from you.



Lots of love from

Chris Vicki