

News from the Greggs

5th May 2004

www.greggs.org

Working on the Africa Mercy in Newcastle!

Hello there!

The Greggs are now in Newcastle beginning an estimated term of 18 months working on the refit of the new hospital ship — the Africa Mercy. The project is going well and although the ship looks rather bare at the moment (like a metal box!) she is on target to sail away at the end of spring next year. Next summer, there will be a inaugural public relations tour visiting a number of European ports (maybe Guernsey!) and possibly a couple of ports in America. Then the ship will head out to West Africa for around 8 months of service.

It's actually a really exciting time to be working with the project as so much is happening and plans that have been made a long-time ago are finally becoming a reality.

Whilst it was sad for us in some ways to leave the Anastasis and her crew, we now feel ready for the



new challenges a head. Before coming here we had a good time on leave visiting family and friends including Christmas spent in Guernsey. Stefan has been great — enjoying meeting new relatives and friends, but is now seeming a bit unsettled as he copes with more hellos and good-byes and adapts to the 6th home he has had in 3 months.

We have finally found our own place for the next year or so — in a place called Hebburn (not to be confused with heaven!) Actually, it is heavenly to

have so much space of our own after our little cabin, we have a big kitchen and even a garden plus good friends nearby.

Please continue to write, email or phone us, or better still come and stay — we even have a spare room!!

Lots of love,
Vicki Chris and Stefan

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Chris's new job - as a Project Engineer

As part of the team of engineers and crew working on the ship's conversion, Chris has responsibility for a wide range of systems — IT (all the computers); telecommunications and satellite systems; fire alarms, public address and audio-visual system; and cabin, hospital and office electrical power. Most of the cable installation is being done by a sub-contractor but the rest of the design and installation

needs to be done by the team. It has been great to be involved at this stage, using my engineering and planning skills and but the task is daunting.

There is a lot of work — we have a year to provide all the services needed for a hospital (which will be larger than the surgical unit in Guernsey) and for the accommodation and offices for a crew of 480.

Our email : vicki@greggs.org chris@greggs.org

Anastasis

The Anastasis crew are in the second stage of a long outreach in Sierra Leone.

About 700 people have received free surgeries so far during the ship's visit to Sierra Leone.

As well as the usual development and teaching projects, a new initiative is a literacy programme for 100 adults who cannot read or write. The main building project is a rehab centre for the polio and war-affected served by Mercy Ships New Steps and the agricultural projects include a seedless orange tree plantation scheme and an irrigation project for the farmers of the Molambay community.

Family News

Just in case you don't know... we are expecting another baby! Vicki is 8 months pregnant and due to deliver at the end of the month. So far everything is going well. Instead of being a Guern, this one will be born a Geordie!

