

Hello all! Here is my first mass e-mail. For those of you who don't know, I am in Liberia, Africa for two months doing missionary work on a ship called Mercy Ships. I left Thursday morning and started the LONG journey to Monrovia. I got here on Friday night and got settled in after a ride through the city from the airport. I wasn't sure what to expect when I got here, but I had kept my mind open, not really trying to expect anything. The city was been devastated by a long war that has finally ended a few years ago. There is not electricity in the city, only generators to provide some light at nights. People live in shacks and few have jobs. Most people here just sell what little goods they can come by on the streets (Like the street peddlers in NYC). I haven't gotten out too much yet, but there will be plenty of time for that.

There are 6 girls in my cabin, Emma from Sweden, Maria from New Zealand, Mandy from Australia, Ali from Canada and Rachel and I from the U.S. It is a pretty good group and they are all very very nice!

Saturday was the 30th anniversary for Mercy Ships so there were a lot of games and a BBQ on the dock. Our dock is a little bit outside of the city, but outside of the gates it still feels like the city to me (I miss my trees and mountains!!) The BBQ really made me homesick for a cook out, but it is way too early for feeling that!!! Today (Sunday) I got to go to church in the patient ward. There was some preaching from the Bible and a lot of singing and dancing. Even the patients were up praising the Lord. I had to laugh b/c I couldn't imagine anything like that ever happening at DRMC!! They brought bongos and a maraca shaker right into the ward. It was very uplifting.

It sort of poured down rain the rest of the day, so I didn't get out a whole lot. It was today that I really missed being able to get out in the woods and just explore on my own. I know that this is only the 3rd day, so I am sure that this won't be the only time I feel like this. But, I start work on Tuesday so I will be a little more occupied! But that is all for now! Please keep sending your prayers for the people on this ship and the people of Monrovia!