

Ship Report

27 January 2006 | Monrovia, Liberia



Foundation donates self-powered radios to Mercy Ships

The Freeplay Foundation has donated 45 Lifeline self-powered radios to Mercy Ships for distribution in Liberia. The Lifeline radios for this project were funded by the Vodafone Group Foundation of South Africa.

The Lifeline radios, created expressly for the humanitarian sector by the UK-based Freeplay Foundation (www.freeplayfoundation.org), are robustly constructed to operate in the harshest of conditions and climates. They can run for several hours using wind-up or solar power, and do not require expensive batteries. Freeplay is also in the process of developing an innovative self-powered flashlight to be used in developing nations.

The radio is not for sale in stores; it is only available for humanitarian organizations to distribute free of charge. The Freeplay Foundation's initiative makes it possible for people in remote and underserved areas to have sustainable access to news and information.

The first 12 radios were distributed to a group of construction workers at the Royesville Elementary School, where Mercy Ships is in the midst of an ongoing renovation and building project. The Royesville project was started during the first Mercy Ships field service to Liberia in early 2005. Local workers continued improvements while the hospital ship was away, and work continues throughout the current field service. The school, which had only 50 students a year ago, now accommodates more than 200 young people.

Romeo Abdullah Cooper, one of the men who received a radio, thanked Mercy Ships: *"On behalf of the workers . . . we just want to give God the glory. Second we want to say a big thank you to you, we want to tell you that we highly appreciate this. We also pray that God will continue to touch the hearts of all the people on Mercy Ships as you continue to bring hope and healing to the people."*



Photos: Debra Bell, Mercy Ships International