

# Ship Report

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## Mercy Ships technical crew takes expertise off-ship

Mercy Ships technical crew onboard the *Anastasis* have partnered with European Union engineers and employees from the White Plains Water Plant in Monrovia to make repairs to the city's water system. The team of experts has collaborated for more than a month to repair key parts of the plant in order to provide more running water to Monrovia.

Monrovia's water treatment plant lies 20km outside the city and draws water from the St. Paul River into the plant. When the Mercy Ships team first visited the plant before Christmas, only one of the plant's four pumps was marginally functional with significant leaks throughout the system. Ken Hilton, Fabrication Shop Manager onboard the *Anastasis*, estimated the plant was operating at 25-30% capacity with the one 16-inch pipe to draw in water. By refitting the pump with new brass bushes made by the ship's machinist, David Mitchell, it is running well. The team also hopes to repair another pump, which would serve as a back-up.

The water plant lacks money for fuel and repairs because customers won't pay their bills, and customers refuse to pay because of inconsistent water flow caused by lack of fuel and lack of maintenance. Mercy Ships Chief Engineer Richard Postles' goal for the work is to *"break the chain, by overhauling this pump and also some valves to give them a better chance of maintaining continuous water supply."* The repairs and resulting income will also supply money for the plant to purchase the necessary diesel for the water pumps.

The involved Mercy Ships engineers are hopeful that their efforts will pay off with more consistent water to the ship and the city itself. Hilton said the team's goal is *"to come alongside the new President's water sanitation people to help get things moving."* So far, the partnership has done just that. Now water flows where it didn't before. It's a small but significant step for this city of more than a million people.



Photos: Richard Brewster, Mercy Ships International