

# Ship Report

24 March 2006 | Monrovia, Liberia



Photo: Richard Brewster, Mercy Ships International

## Rotary donates new Land Rover to Mercy Ships

Members of the Rotary Club of Croydon South (UK) recently raised funds and partnered with the Rotary Club of Monrovia (Liberia). As a result, they received matching funds from Rotary International and have now donated a new Land Rover to Mercy Ships.

Through these “matching grants,” Rotary matches contributions raised by partnering Rotary clubs from two or more countries. Most often, these grants assist international service projects, supporting organizations all over the world. Currently, Mercy Ships is one of the “Charities of Choice” for Rotary International of Britain and Ireland (RIBI), which facilitated the donation.

On 15 March, the Land Rover arrived in the Free Port of Monrovia. Loaded on a huge “roll-on-roll-off” ship, the vehicle had traveled for three weeks from the United Kingdom. When the ship arrived in Monrovia, it docked at a berth within sight of the Mercy Ship, and the Land Rover was unloaded the same day.

Olly Peet, Transportation Manager on the Mercy Ship *Anastasis*, is grateful for Rotary’s generous donation of what he contends is the best vehicle for use by Mercy Ships: “*We’ve had nearly 20 Land Rovers so far. We’ve used*

*them since 1990. They are the toughest off-road vehicles available. They have aluminum frames that don’t rust — and with all the sailing we do, that’s absolutely essential.*”

Justin Watkins, who handles procurement in the Mercy Ships UK office, worked for several months facilitating the gift. Rotary sought to purchase just the right vehicle for Mercy Ships. Watkins said, “*We’ve spent a lot of time getting the details right.*”

Peet added, “*We are very thankful for Rotary’s donation. This makes it possible for Mercy Ships to do more, and to do it more reliably.*”



Photo: Debra Bell, Mercy Ships International

## Mercy Ships helps kick off women’s prayer movement in Liberia

Solfrid Quist, Executive Director of the Mercy Ship *Anastasis*, spoke at the recent program that launched Project Hannah/Women of Hope Liberia, a worldwide movement now being instituted in Liberia. The ceremony was held at the Philadelphia Central Church in Congo Town, Monrovia. It featured women in leadership throughout the country — including Mrs. Kartumu Boakai, the wife of Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai, Vice President of Liberia.

Project Hannah, a ministry of Trans World Radio, is an innovative ministry to women by

women that touches hearts and instilling them with lasting hope. Project Hannah expresses itself through three main components: awareness, prayer, and radio programming. The project began in 1997, and since its inception, it has expanded to include women in more than 45 countries around the globe.

Project Hannah aims to bring awareness of the plight of women around the world and to mobilize prayer. Eleanor Kiamu has taken on leadership of Project Hannah in Liberia and now serves as the National Director. She says, *“In April we will be praying for widows and orphans, and we can identify because we have a lot of widows and a lot of orphans among us. So although it’s a network — we’re praying for other women around the world — it’s also like a mirror.”*

Christine Tolbert-Norman, the daughter of former Liberian president William R. Tolbert, was one of the day’s speakers. Radio, she stated, is unique in its ability to reach people: *“Why radio? We believe that radio is one of the most effective media of sharing information and knowledge. Radio will go where people cannot go.”*