

Together



2 March 2006

A small crowd of patients is gathered on the dock next to the Mercy Ship. They sit watching and listening intently. In three neat rows, sporting their dark sunglasses, the group looks like they could be watching a 3-D movie.



In reality, though, their attention is on Annie, a Liberian translator working with patients onboard the hospital ship. She addresses the group—about 15 people of all ages who received cataract surgery on the *Anastasis*—instructing them about how to take care of their eyes, now that they were headed home. Annie also reminded them to thank God for restoring their sight.

Soon, with their two daughters flanking them, husband and wife Joseph and Lucy walk down the dock. They don't have much to say; they are kind, but they seem ready to begin their journey home, back to Liberia's remote Maryland County—a journey that will take them as much as a week to complete.



Just a day earlier, both Joseph and Lucy underwent surgery to remove cataracts, Joseph's in his left eye and Lucy's in her right.

Now, after several years of being blind, the couple, in their 70s, is returning home. They'll have a lot to see on the way.

For starters, one another.