



Mercy Ships volunteers to feature on 7Plus's 'Mighty Ships'

22 January 2020: The work of volunteers serving with the Mercy Ships charity on board Africa Mercy, the world's largest charity hospital ship, will be featured in an hour-long episode of the TV series Mighty Ships.

'Mighty Ships: Africa Mercy' will screen on the Seven Network's video on demand service 7Plus until September. The program shows life on board and the work being done by a volunteer crew of more than 460 people in West Africa.

"There are hundreds of Australians who have served as volunteers on one of the ships operated by Mercy Ships over the last 40 years. This hour-long episode on the hospital ship will bring back many memories for them," says Alan Burrell, Managing Director of Mercy Ships Australia.

Mighty Ships was produced for Discovery Channel Canada, and acquired by the Seven Network in Australia. The Emmy-award winning series is a behind the scenes look at some of the sea's most impressive vessels, from pirate-hunting naval frigates and high-tech ocean dredgers to luxury cruise ships and lethal nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

Among such ships is the Africa Mercy, which docks in the world's poorest nations as volunteers provide free medical care to the poorest of the poor. The ship is equipped with five operating theatres, an 82-bed hospital, state-of-the-art equipment and accommodation for volunteer crew members. Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to deliver free health care services, capacity building and sustainable development to those without access in the developing world. Founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 70 countries providing services valued at more than \$1 billion, treating more than 2.5 million direct medical beneficiaries.

Australian volunteers include surgeons, dentists, nurses, health care trainers, teachers, cooks, seamen, engineers and others who donate their time and skills to serve.

The hour-long program will show an emphasis on the behind-the-scenes operation of the hospital ship serving the needs of the world's poorest nations in West Africa.

Mighty Ships: Africa Mercy

Africa Mercy is a floating hospital capable of delivering top-notch medical care. You're invited to come aboard on a six-month life and death mission as the ship and her crew bring hope to western Africa, one of the world's poorest regions. For the crew of Africa Mercy, treating the ailing patients will only be half the challenge. In order to reach those who need them, they will have to outsmart faulty technology, outmanoeuvre South Atlantic squalls, and outwit marauding pirates.

Braving the dangerous waters off the western coast of Africa in a converted ferry carrying ship, these volunteers will do whatever it takes to bring their mobile hospital to the people who need it most.

Watch now at <https://7plus.com.au/mighty-ships?episode-id=MTYS03-004>

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About Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to deliver free, world-class health care services, capacity building and sustainable development aid to those without access in the developing world. Founded in 1978, Mercy Ships has worked in 56 countries providing services valued at more than \$1.53 billion, with more than 2.6 million direct beneficiaries.

Each year, more than 1,200 volunteers from over 40 nations serve with Mercy Ships. Professionals including surgeons, dentists, nurses, health care trainers, teachers, cooks, seamen, engineers, and agriculturalists donate their time and skills to the effort. Mercy Ships seeks to transform individuals and serve nations one at a time. Mercy Ships Australia is based on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. For more information, visit www.mercyships.org.au

Notes to Editors

High resolution photos are available upon request, with attribution to Mercy Ships.

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