



# H.O.W. NEWS

**A Call To Help Orphans & Widows**

**Summer 2008**

H.O.W. participated with a sponsored booth on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> for the event. There were many exhibits and the world. The time shared was refreshing variety of churches and organizations.



at “*Mission Expo*” at First Baptist Downey in Downey, CA. “*TNT – Tribes, Nations, Tongues*” was the exploding theme gifted speakers to inform all guests with updates from around and rewarding to be with many servant hearted people from a

**Casa Hogar – Canon Buena Vista, Mexico** The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Discipleship Class, of Desert Winds Community Church in Palmdale, CA., joined forces with volunteers from Los Angeles Water and Power to assist H.O.W. with exterior painting of the main children’s building at Casa Hogar. Twenty gallons of green paint and several hours later, the building was transformed to “good as new”. The team did a great job.



Pam Balch, Director of Children’s Ministry at Desert Winds Community Church, and her team had a desire to include something extra special for the kids at Casa Hogar. They were not sure what to do. The decision came after thought and prayer. . . . . “**soccer balls and uniforms**”. Little did they realize this would be answer to prayers of the kids. They are the #1 soccer team in their area and had no uniforms or good equipment to use. Excitement, tears and praise was lifted as everyone of them received a brand new uniform and soccer ball. The kids were completely surprised. It was a joy to see.



A Simple Act of Kindness  
Well done Desert Winds team



Outdoor lighting was installed in areas around play yards and a laundry building. It will add safety and extend the use of the facilities during the evenings. The expertise of the volunteers from LA Water and Power enabled the installation to come together quick and professionally.

## Preparing for ECUADOR:

H.O.W. is partnering with Lancaster 1<sup>ST</sup> Assembly of God, Lancaster, CA., in the construction of a school/feeding center for under privileged youth. If the Lord will permit, we will include works with widows, medical / dental work, and a pastor’s conference. Evangelism for children will be a priority on this trip. Our objective is to use puppetry to bring the Good News of our Lord Jesus. We ask those who are partnering with us to pray to our Lord on behalf of this team, to accomplish the will of our God. We will be working with the Quechua Indians close to the capital city Quito.

### Our Mission

**Helping Orphans and Widows’ mission is to help and assist orphans and widows worldwide by strengthening and encouraging them through economic, physical, medical, spiritual, and/or material means.**

**A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation 501C3 Federal Nonprofit**



Interested in sponsoring an event, an orphan or a widow? Contact us today!

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## Directors Woodrow and Robin Hopper Join the team of Mercy Ships

*Robin Shares their story.*



We are not quite sure when this journey began. It could have been when Woody was a brand new Christian listening to foreign missionaries speaking, on furlough, in a small Southern Baptist Church. He would listen and feel a tugging at his heart, only to ignore what was probably God speaking. For me, it could have been as a child, when the mystery and excitement of Africa stirred within me. I would watch the news of the hungry and poor starving in Ethiopia and elsewhere and long to be working with the International Red Cross to ease their suffering.

It is difficult to pinpoint the beginning point when God began preparing us for this journey in our life. It is clear that God changed us after participating in a short-term mission trip to Kingston, Jamaica. From that point forward, our passion has been to further God's kingdom internationally. During spring 2007, we attended a mission conference where God moved us to make a commitment to "go anywhere," "go at anytime," and "do anything." From this point forward, we were willing to explore all options.

While planning vacation for summer 2007, two mission agency opportunities arose. God allowed the Introduction to Mercy Ships course to work out while He closed doors on other opportunities. The Introduction to Mercy Ships is a one week course that gives a good overview of what **Mercy Ships** is all about. By week's end, both of us were feeling led to possibly join **Mercy Ships** long-term.

At first, we assumed God would want us to wait two years for Woody to retire and self-fund this journey, but God had other plans. God was asking us to throw human logic to the wind and trust him completely for all our needs. We will be in Texas for Gateway, September 19 - October 18. We fly to Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa on October 23, 2008. We will be there till the end of 2008 and then move to Benin, West Africa, for the year of 2009. In 2010, we will be in Guinea, West Africa.

Most positions with **Mercy Ships** are completely volunteer service, whether short-term or long-term, including our positions. Woody's position will be an Optometrist and I will be the Personal Assistant to the Public Relations Director.



We are excited to see what God has planned for us. To be honest, with the excitement comes some fear. Your prayers are needed as we put our house on the market, pack our house up, say goodbye to family and friends, and complete our fundraising. We are certain God has called us to this and trust He will provide for all our needs.

The years Woody and Robin have served as H.O.W. Board Directors have been rewarding. They have added to the success of reaching many in need of a blessing. They will be missed. "Africa Mercy" is getting a great couple. If you would like to sponsor the Woodrow Hopper family, you can do so on-line at [www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org) and select make a gift, sponsor a crew member.