

Stories of Transformation

Mercy Ships Fact Sheet

Updated February 2010



Jatu, age 14, Sierra Leone, Obstetric Fistula Repair



Jatu

A child bride receives healing

A young bride, Jatu told how a long, tragic birthing process left her with a stillborn child, incontinence and despair. And so Jatu joined the estimated two million women who suffer with a condition known as vesico-vaginal fistula (VVF). Most women with VVF suffer for decades, silent and alone. But Jatu's father-in-law heard about Mercy Ships and the possibility of a free surgery onboard. Jatu said, "I was nervous to come to the ship but I was sure I would get healing here." And Jatu did find healing. Her health restored, she left the ship to return joyfully to her husband and family.



George, 5 days, Liberia, Cleft Lip Repair



George

Precious baby restored

Naomi's first child, "Baby George," was born with a cleft lip and palate — a common but frightening birth defect. "I was scared," Naomi said. When her son was five days old, she brought him to a Mercy Ship. Doctors scheduled "Baby George" for surgery and showed Naomi how to help him put on weight. Months later they returned to the Mercy Ship for a successful free operation. "I'm very happy," a beaming and hopeful Naomi exclaimed as she held her sleeping son.



Assan & Alusan, Twins, age 2, Liberia, Cataract Removal



Assan and Alusan

They'll never forget what mercy looks like

Blinded by cataracts, Assan and Allusan had never seen their mother – or each other. Their eyes were painful to watch, rolling aimlessly. The twins were born in an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp outside Liberia's capital city where a Mercy Ship was docked. A few days later Mercy Ships surgeon Dr. Strauss performed bilateral cataract surgery on the twins. The following day, the boys could see! Before long they were playing their first game of hide and seek.



Patrick, age 20, Sierra Leone, Tumour Removal



Patrick

Saved from the brink of death

When a Mercy Ship came to Sierra Leone, Patrick had been told he had five years to live at most. A slow growing tumour was killing him. Patrick received two free onboard operations at the hands of skilled Mercy Ships surgeons. Today, Patrick is married with three children. He is gainfully employed and serves as an Associate Pastor of a Church in Freetown, Sierra Leone.



Isabel, age 10, Honduras, Club Foot Correction



Isabel

A young girl's dream comes true

Ten-year-old Isabelle was born with a condition called "clubbed feet." She learned to "walk" on the tops of her feet, dragging herself from place to place. In 1997, orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Tim Browne left his practice to serve full-time with Mercy Ships. "When I met Isabelle, my heart went out to her," Dr. Browne said. "I realized I could help put a smile on her face by doing surgery on her feet." Isabelle smiles now, and says her dreams have come true.

*Lives transformed
through hope
and healing...*