

MSUK NEWS



GAMAI'S JOURNEY

This cheeky grin is finally unleashed after weeks of rehabilitation on the *Africa Mercy*. No longer restricted by her burn contractures, surgery has freed 5 year old Gamai to live the life she was meant to –her smile leading the way.



When we met Gamai, her burn contracture definitely needed our help.



And then, we kind of fell in love with her. Who could blame us?



Sometimes, we see a patient find their smile right in front of our eyes...we love that.



And, we love that sometimes moms find their smiles, too.



Elizabeth Myers

MEET THE CREW

Elizabeth Myers, originally from Chester, is a ward nurse currently on board the *Africa Mercy*.

"The humbleness and patience of our day crew is a beautiful thing. They love, laugh, sing, serve and work wholeheartedly it is incredible to serve alongside them, hear their stories and watch how they want to help."

Elizabeth had always wanted to use her skills as a nurse to serve those in need. "Since 10 I wanted to go to Africa and when I qualified in 2016 as a paediatric nurse I wanted to volunteer with Mercy Ships. A friend in my church had served three times before on the ship and was telling me about it when I was still a student. I had also seen years before adverts on Facebook."

For Elizabeth the experience has been everything she had hoped for

"So many different and wonderful memories have been made so far. Relationships built with patients who just want your love and to laugh with you, Friendships with cabin mates that will stay for life. I have 3months left on the ship however I think main memories taken away will be the way God used me in all circumstances regardless of my feelings because He is sovereign and loves to use us even if we feel inadequate or unable to serve."

So what advice does Elizabeth have for anyone thinking of volunteering onboard?

"It's an incredible and life changing experience and if God gives you the opportunity to go and serve then you should seize it with both hands!"



Some of our fantastic UK crew

It has been a busy start to the year for Hannah our Crew Support Coordinator who is supporting 170 UK & Irish crew coming and going from the ship at various times. Plans have started for the Senegal field service which begins in August. Crew have begun receiving dates to go on the ship and volunteer and it's all very exciting to get to know a new bunch of crew. The UK & Irish Support Guidebook is now complete and is a helpful resource for our crew with information about insurance deals, how to get cheaper vaccinations and info on flights etc. It has already been an invaluable resource for many of our new crew who are preparing to serve. Without P&I's support, our crew would not have the dedicated supportive structure and contact person in the UK office which impacts so many people and in turn the lives of our patients. Thank you for making this role possible and helping our crew during their time on the *Africa Mercy*.



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