

Mercy Ships

March 2021

DEAR SAM & ANN,

On the Brink of Death



Paul Pascal after cleft lip and palate surgery on board the Africa Mercy

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Francoise lived an experience no mother should have to endure. She watched as her newborn baby, Paul Pascal, inched closer to the brink of death every day. Born with a cleft lip and palate, Paul struggled to drink milk and dropped to a dangerously low weight. "We were so scared ... we thought he would die," said Francoise. She stayed up with her hungry newborn night after night, rocking him as he cried, desperately trying to feed him, fighting for him to survive.

When the Africa Mercy arrived in Cameroon, Francoise rushed her baby to the ship in search of help. The medical staff brought him onboard before the hospital was even officially opened to offer him the critical care that he needed.



Her tears of fear turned to tears of joy as her baby blossomed in front of her, his cheeks slowly filling out and his hair growing thick and healthy, until he was strong enough to receive cleft lip and palate surgery.



When it came time for the ship to leave Cameroon, Francoise was celebrating a milestone she never thought she would see: her baby's first birthday.

"The Lord has changed the life of Paul and given him a new one!"



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Africa Mercy



Global Mercy

Two ships—two crew!

Looking for an adventure of a lifetime? We have a place for you!

For more information on how you can volunteer on board one of our ships, please see our website:

www.mercyships.co.za/volunteer

or send an email to: info.zaf@mercyships.org

or give us a call on: [078-839-9985](tel:078-839-9985)



Brenda

Brenda van Straten
National Director
Mercy Ships South Africa

Mercy Ships and Cure International Partnership

Mercy Ships and CURE International announced a partnership to provide specialized surgical care to children living with disabilities across the continent of Africa. Both organizations provide hope and healing to children living with disabilities through surgical care in under-resourced countries.

During a time when the COVID -19 pandemic has made access to specialized surgical care even more difficult, combining the resources of two like-minded organizations will provide treatment to the most vulnerable in under-resourced countries like Uganda and Niger.

Even before the pandemic, children that need specialized surgical care often wait years before receiving

treatment because of limited national resources or the lack of specialized doctors, resulting in added economic burdens for their families and additional suffering. The pandemic has only further compounded these factors.



Dr. Tertius Venter, a South African volunteer plastic reconstructive surgeon for Mercy Ships is currently at the CURE Children's Hospital of Niger assisting in the provision of sur-

gery to children who have suffered from the effects of burn accidents that contract their skin and limit mobility.

"We're so excited to join hands with Mercy Ships to increase access to surgical care in strategic locations across the CURE network. The challenges of COVID have resulted in creative solutions and collaborative partnership that help us effectively treat the most vulnerable, children with disabilities." said Justin Narducci, President & CEO of CURE International.

