Vessels of Mercy International
2020 Missions Expeditions

Running the Race
January 2020

Dear Runner,

For over 25 years we have been running this race God called us to run. We run with His torch in our hands, with purpose, determination, steadfastness, perseverance, and discipline – eyes fixed on the finish line. He has called us to have faith even when we can’t see the finish line so we will run with patience. The flame that we carry burns deeply in our hearts and ignites us to run with all our might. This is the flame of our Lord, the light of the world and we are only the keepers of the flame ensuring it is burning brightly. We remember that we are only the vessels that He fills with His love, light, and compassion for a broken world. We must go and illuminate the darkness with His light and hope, to fulfill His command to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation,” as Mark 16:15 says. As His vessels, we run with His torch in our hands carrying the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many runners focus on the speed of their progress but overlook one far more crucial factor of successful athletic competition: consistent endurance. We may start out in the lead, but if we are unable to remain consistent, we will fall back as we begin to fatigue. There are times when we must push through fatigue, pain, mental barriers, setbacks, and obstacles. This race is long and at times we feel like giving up, but we press on by focusing on the finish line and the prize. We must endure to the end.

As we face difficulty, persecution, war and conflict in the race, we sometimes realize that we have no strength left. We must draw upon the strength of our Lord to sustain and renew us. When we are tempted to look behind us and be content with how far we have come, or when we feel discouraged with the length of the race that remains, let us look to Jesus. He will renew and strengthen us so that we are able to overcome and press on toward the goal. Jesus is our coach – supporting, encouraging and training us and at times, gently pushing us onward. Ultimately, He will bring us to our long-awaited reward. It takes courage and fortitude to resist the urge to settle down, quit or retreat. With our eyes fixed on Him and the race set before us, we will continue to go to the nations until all have heard.

Run! Run! My fellow runner RUN with the torch in your hand and with the shoes of the gospel of peace! Run the race that is set before you and join us for this next part of our amazing race as we continue to impact the world and set it ablaze for Christ. Our best is up ahead. Let’s run so that in the end we may be able say as Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Your fellow runner and torchbearer,

Bev

Bev Gibson
Founder/CEO
Vessels of Mercy International

"Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."
Hebrews 12:1

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:14
El Progreso, Honduras

Vacation Bible School & Construction
February 15-22, 2020

Build relationships through
- Bible stories, games, crafts, and music
- Threads of Hope knitting and crocheting project

Cost: $1975
Application and Deposit Deadline: Call our office immediately

2021 El Progreso, Honduras

Vacation Bible School & Women's Ministry
February 13-20, 2021
Application and Deposit Deadline: October 15, 2020

Medical Clinic
Pisac, Peru
March 20-29, 2020

Extend hope and mercy to those living in the highlands of Peru through
- medical care
- blanket distribution
- one-on-one prayer and counseling
- friendship evangelism

Cost: $2700
Application and $1450 Deposit Deadline: Call our office immediately
Vacation Bible School & Women's Ministry
April 18-25, 2020
Impart the gospel through
- ministry to women struggling with abuse, addiction, and prostitution
- Bible stories, games, crafts, and music with children from the poorest communities
Cost $2100
Application and Deposit Deadline: Call our office immediately

San José Pinula, Guatemala
Sustainable Hygiene Kit Distribution & Community Health Workshop
August 29-September 5, 2020
Offer dignity and empowerment through
- Distribution of sustainable hygiene kits to school-aged girls
- Educational workshops on women's health and Menstrual Hygiene Management
- Prevention and Awareness of gender-based Violence
- Health Education Workshops - Preventable Diseases
Cost: TBD
Deadline: April 15, 2020

2021 Managua, Nicaragua
Vacation Bible School & Women's Ministry
April: TBD
Application and Deposit Deadline: December 15, 2020
Medical Clinic
October 31-November 7, 2020

Extend hope and mercy to those living in the poorest country in the western hemisphere through
- medical care
- one-on-one prayer and counseling

Cost: TBD
Application and $1000 Deposit Deadline: June 22, 2020

Coming in 2021

Honduras: February 13-20, 2021
Liberia Dental: March 20-27, 2021
Rwanda: June 18-27, 2021
Kenya: July, 2021
Nicaragua: TBD
Romania: August 28-September 4, 2021
Haiti Medical: October 30-November 6, 2021

Cookie Brigade

Supply cookies once a month to be used as a ministry tool that helps us gain access to the homes and hearts of families in some of Richmond’s most impoverished and crime-laden neighborhoods. You’ll be helping us meet people where they are and make them hungry for Jesus! Call our office or email us for details and schedule.
Richmond, Virginia Community Clean-up
Date: Saturday, May 16, 2020
Place: Faith Covenant Christian Fellowship Church

It is Spring cleaning time. Will you lend us a hand for our Clean-up Day with our partner’s at Faith Covenant Christian Fellowship Church? This church serves in the heart of Mosby/Gilpin Court. Pastor Mary and Eugene have dedicated their lives to serving the children living in these communities and need some helping hands to clean up and spruce up the grounds of the church.

Invite your friends and families to join us for some fun and giving back to our community!

13th Annual Golfing for Hope Tournament
Lakeside Country Club — Captain's Choice

Monday June 8, 2020 — shotgun start at 1:00 PM
Cost: $120 per player (includes lunch, dinner, and golf fees)
Deadline: May 29, 2020

Your sponsorship and/or participation helps provide HOPE and transforms lives through
- vocational training, equipment, and agricultural projects
- sustainable development, disaster relief, medical and dental
- various strategic tools

Corporate and individual sponsors are welcomed! Remember or honor someone special with a sponsorship.

All proceeds will benefit our relief and development projects.
Embrace Hope Auction

Save the Date 🕒 Hope starts with you!
3rd Annual Embrace Hope Auction
Date: Monday, October 12, 2020
Place: Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen
2880 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Operation Homefront

Delivering Hope to Our Veterans.
In honor of Veteran's Day November 11
Serving the veterans of the McGuire VA Medical Center

Offer encouragement and hope through
- Filling (blue) gift bags with items from the approved list
- Writing an encouraging note to include in the bags
- Showing Christ's love through caring
- Join the delivery team

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE BAGS IN THE OFFICE: November 2, 2020 at 12 noon.

For more details on this outreach and a complete list of items needed, go to
http://www.vesselsofmercy.org/operation-homefront/ or visit our shopping list on Amazon
at https://smile.amazon.com/operation-homefront-veteran's or call our office.

Threads of Hope
Sewing/Knitting/Crocheting

Join the team! We need your skills to create pillowcase dresses, shorts, dolls, squares, sustainable hygiene shields, and liners. The shorts and pillowcase dresses are delivered to those living in extreme poverty. The hygiene kits are distributed to school-aged girls and will make it possible to stay in school. The knitted/crochet squares are given to women to help teach them a skill and assist them in earning funds to buy necessities for their families. Call our office or email us for specifics on items needed and patterns.
Holiday of Hope RVA

Bless a Child or Family This Christmas

December 2020

Communicate hope and the love of Christ through
- Organizing a food drive providing non-perishables and canned food for holiday food boxes
- Filling stockings for students (Pre-school, Elementary, Middle)
- Providing hotel/airline toiletries, cosmetic/toiletry bags for us to fill
- Provide hats, gloves, scarfs, blankets (new/gently used)

For more information or to volunteer for this special project contact: info@vesselsofmercy.org or call our office.

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE STOCKINGS IN THE OFFICE: December 2, 2020 at 12 noon.

For a list of suggested items for the various age groups (Pre-school, Elementary, Middle) go to http://www.vesselsofmercy.org/Stocking-Guidelines-2020.pdf

Silver Stockings

Offer Hope and Compassion for elderly residents of care facilities who may not have family or friends to visit them during the holidays:
- Filling (silver) gift bags with items from the approved list
- Sharing Christ with this special population
- Join the delivery team

For more information or to volunteer for this project contact: info@vesselsofmercy.org or call our office.

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE BAGS IN THE OFFICE: December 2, 2020 at 12 noon.

For a list of suggested items go to http://www.vesselsofmercy.org/silver-stockings/
**RVA School Partnership**

Can you help us stock the shelves for a local school? We partner with a local school where parents have a hard time affording the supplies required for their children. Many even struggle to provide food for their families. The students often come to school hungry. These classrooms then fall back on the teachers. We will provide supplies every quarter. Items needed on a regular basis are crayons, glue sticks, chocolate chip granola bars, Rice Krispie treats, pencils, tissues, and disinfectant wipes. Please deliver all items to our office. Call for delivery times.

**Collect**

Help us collect the items listed for serving in our local and international outreach projects

- Bandanas (new/cotton only)
- Children's knit gloves/hats
- Cosmetic/toiletry bags
- Hotel/airline toiletries

**Disaster Relief Team**

**Disaster Relief**

When a disaster strikes

Alleviate human suffering and offer hope in the midst of crisis by
- providing food, water, clothing, medical assistance, practical disaster aid, and relief service
- assisting with manual labor to address structural damage
- supporting victims as they process shock, grieve, and make a plan for the future

Cost: determined by location

Application and orientation are required prior to serving in a disaster area.
Team Member Qualifications/Requirements

**SPRITUAL** Team members should be committed Christians who want to serve Jesus Christ and His people. A servant’s heart, a spirit of flexibility, and respect of team policy and leadership are imperative.

**PHYSICAL** Team members need to be able to withstand long hours of work, often under hot and humid conditions, with difficult travel and work conditions. Willing hands and a willing heart go a long way. You must inform team leaders of any condition that could hamper your work or the work of the team.

**SOCIAL** Team members need to be able to interact socially with one another and with the local people. People who like to isolate themselves or have regular private time and space are not suitable team members.

**FINANCIAL** To register for a trip, a nonrefundable deposit is due before the deadline. Each team member needs to complete an application and be approved prior to serving. Each team member needs to accept responsibility for personal travel expenses as indicated in each project. Please understand that the cost listed is an estimated cost and is subject to change based on potential increases in charges and fees beyond our control. These changes can be due to flight changes, increase in fuel charges and taxes, as well as the fluctuation of the US dollar. The dates, cost, and scope of the project are all subject to change.

The cost listed for all trips includes airfare to and from Richmond International Airport, all in-country meals, transportation, and gratuities. Team members are responsible for all fees for passport, visa, immunizations, airport meals, and personal necessities. If you are coming from another area, we will work with you to coordinate flights; however, your total cost may be higher depending on your location. You will be responsible for all additional costs for your flights and travel expenses. **Vessels of Mercy International** will provide receipts for all tax-deductible contributions according to the current tax law. Please be advised **expenses associated with excursions and/or side trip activities are not tax-deductible.** You will be made aware of those expenses in advance and specific payment instructions. All team members will be required to attend and pay for all such excursions and side trip activities **prior to your departure.**

A payment schedule will be provided for each trip. The payments must be received by the date indicated and prior to departure. It is our policy that your airline ticket will not be purchased until payment has been made. Payments may be made by check or credit card. If paying by credit card, there is an additional charge of 2.9% up to 7% to cover processing and merchant fees.
STEP 1. CHOOSE YOUR TRIP
Now that you have discovered all of our exciting ministry opportunities, it’s time to decide where to go! Pray and discuss your decision with your spouse, pastor, mentor, and/or parents before you apply.

STEP 2. APPLY
There are two easy ways to apply: by mail or online. To apply by mail, call 804-740-4575 and request an application. Our staff will walk you through the entire process and answer your questions. Alternatively, apply online at www.vesselsofmercy.org.

STEP 3. BEGIN TO PREPARE
Once we have received your application and you have been accepted for your trip, we will send you an acceptance letter with additional information. If you have any questions at any time, please call our staff at 804-740-4575.

Don’t just travel to a destination; travel to discover your destiny by joining us on a short-term missions trip this year. We look forward to seeing you!

No Passport! No Problem!

There are many ways to make a difference. If you are unable to GO, you can still be a missionary. Be the Change! Volunteer!

Are you interested in using your gifts and skills to help us grow and expand our reach? If so, then we have an incredible opportunity for you! We are strategically looking for those who have experience in writing, social media, website development, event planning, management, warehouse management, inventory, and have willing hands and a heart to serve both locally and globally. Then contact our office at 804-740-4575 or info@vesselsofmercy.org

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
Matthew 28:19
Every day, we meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in the United States as well as in 15 other nations of the world — regardless of gender, religion, social, or ethnic origin — helping them discover truth through example and principle. We use various strategic tools as a means to share the gospel.

We are containers, all vessels of many shapes and sizes. Paul said that we are to be a body filled with God, a container carrying God everywhere we go. We are to reflect Jesus through our life, shining as a bright light in a dark world. The world is waiting and watching. Will you be a vessel that God can use to make a difference in the lives of those who so desperately need Him? Come with us and run the race for God!

Vessels of Mercy International
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A non-profit relief and development organization
An accredited member of the Better Business Bureau
Registered with the Virginia State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs