

# TOP TEN READING LIST

## Don Stephens

Every month we enjoy providing some good reading recommendations from the Ambassador family. This month we've asked the President of Mercy Ships to share his recommended "Top 10" for your reading stack!

*With the growth we have experienced at Mercy Ships over the past decade, I find myself referencing several of my favorite books.*

1. **Good to Great** (*Jim Collins*) — This book really helped Mercy Ships focus on our core competencies. The "Hedgehog Concept" continues to be a guiding principle in our decision making!
2. **Crucial Conversations** (*Kerry Patterson and Joseph Grenny*) — Our staff, both in Texas and onboard our hospital ship, attended book clubs based on this book. It's encouraging to see the results of people having more effective crucial conversations.
3. **The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People** (*Stephen Covey*) — We've had several workshops based on this book to help us with our personal and interpersonal development – I recommend it highly!
4. **On Hallowed Ground** (*Robert M. Poole*) — A moving documentation of how our nation's most revered cemetery originated and flourished. In an affront to local slaves, they were buried off to the side, not far from their ghetto that was eventually leveled

for expansion, and now are resting in America's most cherished soil.

5. **A Tale of Three Kings** (*Gene Edwards*) — The story of King Saul, King David and King Absalom speaks deeply to anyone who is in a leadership position. A must-read for any young leader, in my opinion!
6. **Eternity in Their Hearts** (*Don Richardson*) — Wonderful evidence of the knowledge of God in even the most remote cultures. A favorite for those working in cross-cultural situations.
7. **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** (*Rebecca Skloot*) — Fascinating book about the origin of the HeLa cells that have been used throughout the world and in countless medical breakthroughs.
8. **Amazing Grace** (*Eric Metaxas*) — Eric is a brilliant writer and doesn't disappoint with the story of William Wilberforce in *Amazing Grace*.
9. **Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy** (*Eric Metaxas*) — Eric's passion for research and detail sheds new insights to the plight of those persecuted in Europe during WW2.
10. And, last but not least, my favorites must include everything and anything written by **Louis L'Amour**!

## TOP PICKS



### ABOUT DON

When research demonstrated that 95 of the 100 largest cities in the world were port cities, Don Stephens began the thoughtful consideration of how a hospital ship might deliver healthcare to the world's neediest. The birth of a profoundly disabled son inspired Don and his wife, Deyon, to move forward with the vision of a floating hospital.

### ABOUT THE AFRICA MERCY

A converted rail ferry, *The Africa Mercy* is the world's largest non-governmental hospital ship. Volunteers from more than 45 nations serve onboard (see page 2). A new ship is currently being constructed, being built with its purpose in view—which will double the capacity in delivering free healthcare to the poorest of the poor.

### ABOUT THE MERCY MINUTE

The giving of mercy is not only a core value for Mercy Ships—it's a biblical mandate for all believers (Micah 6:8; Isaiah 1:17). Each day Don reminds listeners how they can engage in fulfilling that calling with the 1:00 feature.

BEFORE



AFTER



## COVER STORY

Mercy Ships volunteer nurse Rachel Lapin holds a little patient named Fifalina on the dock in front of the *Africa Mercy*, the world's largest private hospital ship. Photos at the left show Fifalina's remarkable transformation.

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