



## Let's Get Acquainted!

PLEASE  
MEET!

Last month, the baton passed for “The Mercy Minute” as **Raeanne Newquist** stepped into the role that Mercy Ships founder Don Stephens fulfilled for two decades. No newcomer to media or Mercy Ships, Raeanne has served aboard the Africa Mercy with her entire family and currently (in addition to the on-air assignment) helps to craft communication on behalf of the ministry.

We knew you’d enjoy getting to know Raeanne more personally as she joins the Christian broadcasting family!

### → How did you initially become acquainted with Mercy Ships?

A dear friend was leaving to be the Kindergarten teacher on board the **Africa Mercy** and invited us to support her financially and in prayer. Through her, we fell in love with the mission.

### → What did you most enjoy as a family living on the ship?

Many things! The **stripped down simplicity of family life was a huge gift** to us. We all lived in about 500 square feet, sharing one bathroom, and our lives weren’t cluttered with running in all different directions. Our circle was radically reduced to the ship and we loved growing together as a family in the everyday moments and great adventures!

### → What excites you about adding this role to your assignments for Mercy Ships?

Doing voice-over work was something I thought about pursuing in my 20’s while working for E! Entertainment Television. **Passion for ministry** and a calling to serve college students took me away from that. But now, many years later, it’s amazing to get to use my voice in the Christian media industry to share the hope and healing of Jesus through Mercy Ships.

### → You studied at Pepperdine University (Malibu) as well as Fuller Theological Seminary—how did those institutions mark your life?

During my college years, Jesus truly became my Savior. Although I had invited Jesus to lead my life as a 5-year-old in Sunday school, I did so because I didn’t want to go to hell when I died *one day!* At school I realized I didn’t need Jesus to save me when I died, I needed Him to save me in that moment! **That changed everything for me.** Then, Seminary was another profound season for learning and discovery—not just about the course work but also about myself and my own theology.

### → Church ministry has been a significant commitment for you ... are you serving now in a local congregation?

We have recently joined a church in our new area and God has opened doors for me to get involved. I have just **joined the teaching team for Women’s Ministry** and I will be in rotation to teach a weekly Bible study to the women of our church. I will also be mentoring another woman this year and I’m thrilled to grow alongside her as we share life together.

### → Who would you name as a spiritual mentor or influencer in your life over the years since college?

Hands down ... **that would be my mother.** She seeks God with her whole heart and longs to share the love of Jesus with everyone she knows. She has a beautiful way of making everyone feel at ease. She’s a prayer warrior (including face-timing her grandchildren to pray with them) and is never without a word of encouragement. I am who I am today because of my mother.

### → What do you and your husband enjoy doing with the kids?

Having left the ocean in Southern California for the lakes and trees of Northern California, we bought a used water ski boat to ease the blow! **We have had an absolute blast being out on the water as much as possible**, learning new tricks, taking a few spills, and making memories. We also love to travel together and seek out new foods to try.

### → How do you cultivate a global outlook in the lives of your children now that you’re back to the USA?

Our children’s time on board the *Africa Mercy* afforded them exposure to many people and cultures that they would not have normally experienced. Seeds were planted in Senegal and those continue to grow for our children as they have a new curiosity and comfort with other cultures. We have kept the conversation going about our time on the ship and often compare and contrast our current “American struggles” with global struggles. As our daughters look to college next year, they both want to study abroad and one will be studying nursing with the hopes of returning to the ship one day. **They all are forever changed.**

### → If you could hop on a plane tomorrow and go anywhere ... where would you go?

Well, Paris, of course! But if I’m being honest – **it would be anywhere the Africa Mercy is docked.** That ship got under my skin and still feels like the home I am missing. (And I just might make a stop in Paris on my way!)

*Mercy Ships’ one minute daily feature “The Mercy Minute” encourages listeners to make a lasting difference in a world of need by following the example of Jesus.*

*Want to air the feature? Contact [Rebecca@ambaa.com](mailto:Rebecca@ambaa.com) for clearance!*