



# Volunteer Chaplain/Counsellor

Minimum 2 Year Commitment



## Role Description

Chaplaincy aims to promote Spiritual, Emotional, Relational, and Financial HEALTH for all crew. THE FOCUS of the Chaplaincy is to provide and facilitate pastoral care for all Mercy Ships personnel. OUR GOAL is to help create an environment for each individual to live in a biblically healthy manner in order to fulfill their purpose in Mercy Ships for as long as the Lord has designed. OUR BELIEF is that being objective, safe and impartial. We can influence, encourage, shepherd, teach, counsel and mediate in both proactive and responsive ways.

## Education and Experience

- Successful completion of OnBoarding program will be required
- A Master's degree (M.A.) or equivalent, or four years minimum related experience and/or training, or equivalent combination of education and experience
- A mature individual who has recognised pastoral gifting
- At least two years of international travel is desired

## Qualifications

- Supportive of Mercy Ships mission and vision, and committed to its core values
- Understand and apply servant leadership, work collaboratively with integrity and demonstrate accountability
- Able to live in and contribute to community life, requiring stable and healthy interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate a life of integrity and authenticity. Be thoroughly versed in the Bible. Able to articulate truth in word and deed. At a minimum, exhibit the qualifications of an Elder as described in 1 Tim 3:2-7
- Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions. Ability to interpret an extensive variety of technical instructions in mathematical or diagram form and deal with several abstract and concrete variables
- Absolute dedication to confidentiality

## Impact

Over 2.8 million lives have been transformed by our work since 1978, an average of 66,000 services offered per year.

- We have completed more than 1,110 community development projects including the reconstruction of schools, clinics, orphanages, water wells and agriculture programmes. Providing local training and infrastructure to enable and sustain their future success.
- We have trained more than 6,600 local professionals (including surgeons) who have in turn trained many others, over 252,000 local people, in basic healthcare.
- The *Global Mercy* and the *Africa Mercy* are the two largest charity hospital ships in the world, and together hold 11 state-of-the-art operating theatres and 279 patient beds.
- We have provided care in over 55 of the world's developing nations.

# Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Share in the spiritual oversight of the crew through pastoral care. Inform the Senior Chaplain of specific care needs as they arise
- Share in the support and furtherance of Christian community through lifestyle and exhortation, leading in prayer, intercession and discipleship
- To know and understand the spiritual and emotional trends and seasons of the staff. Serves as a listener and encourager
- Organizational core values inculcation by providing leadership, vision and direction for all crew members, through our onboard community gatherings
- Collects and evaluates assessment data and develops a treatment plan for those requesting counseling
- Conducts counseling, team counseling or therapeutic interviews to assist individual to gain insight into spiritual needs, personal problems, define goals, and plan action reflecting interests, abilities, and needs. This is sometimes done in consultation with Chaplain/Counselor at the ISC and/or other professional counselors
- Teaches, trains, facilitates, briefs and debriefs groups in various settings
- Collects, organizes, and analyzes information about individuals through records, tests, interviews, and professional sources, to appraise their interests, aptitudes, abilities, and personality characteristics, for spiritual, vocational and educational planning, and personal growth
- Participates in continuing education in all areas of counseling services provided
- Prepares and delivers sermons and other talks both within and outside Mercy Ships
- Compiles and studies occupational, educational, and economic information to aid counsels in making and carrying out vocational, educational, and spiritual objectives
- Evaluates data to identify causes of individual's challenges and to determine advisability of counseling or referral to other specialists, locations or institutions
- Assists individuals in understanding and overcoming spiritual, social and emotional challenges
- Coordinate and supervise counseling of other chaplains onboard under the direction of the Senior Chaplain
- Consults on a regular/ongoing basis with the Chaplain/Counselor at the ISC
- Other duties as assigned

## Our work

### Mariama's story

Mariama is a lively and healthy baby, but a severe facial cleft strained her joyful smile. This facial cleft affected 7-month-old Mariama's lip and nose, making it difficult for her to eat and causing her parents to worry about their child's future.

Since paediatric services capable of treating baby Mariama's condition were not available near the family, local doctors directed her father to Senegal's capital city in hopes of finding help.

It was there that he heard about a hospital ship capable of providing healing for his little girl.

Soon after, Mariama received an operation onboard the *Africa Mercy* that repaired her cleft lip. After surgery, Mariama and her family stayed at the HOPE Centre, where her mother learned how to make nutritional baby formula and learned about the importance of nutrition for her child. Now, Mariama is home with her family, happy and healthy!

