

# **OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL LOADING U.S. NAVY SHIP WITH OVER 200 TONS OF CRITICAL RELIEF SUPPLIES AND 10 HIGH-PRODUCTION WATER PURIFICATION PLANTS**

## **OBI Water Purification Expert To Travel On Ship**

### **USNS Sacagawea To Leave Norfolk Tuesday, January 19 around 4pm**

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (January 18, 2010) – Operation Blessing International (OBI) has secured space onboard the USNS Sacagawea to transport critical disaster relief supplies to help the victims of the earthquake. The ship is being loaded today and tomorrow morning and is expected to depart from Norfolk around 4pm Tuesday (January 19).

#### **Operation Blessing International will be shipping:**

- (7) Truckloads of bottled water (175,000 ½-liter bottles)
- (3) Truckloads of baby food (60 tons)
- (10) WMI water plants (each capable of purifying 10,000 gallons a day)
- 350 LifeSaver water bottles (family size water purifiers)
- 5800 Ready-to-eat meals
- 2750 Gallons of diesel fuel

In addition to the cargo, OBI's' water purification expert Joe Scott, a retired U.S. Navy Sea Bee equipment operator, will travel onboard the ship in order to install the WMI water purification plants upon their arrival in Port-au-Prince.

Called the Living Water Treatment System by Water Missions International (WMI), the units use alum as a coagulant, garnet and anthracite for filtration with a back wash system so that they can be used for up to 5 years with no filter replacement costs, and a chlorinator for biological purification. Each unit will produce up to 10,000 gallons of filtered water per day.

The ship will reach Guantanamo, Cuba, in five days. The cargo will be unloaded and U.S. Navy helicopters will transport the supplies to OBI's temporary headquarters at the Port-au-Prince airport.

OBI has been working to help the people of Haiti since May, 2009 and had staff on the ground when the earthquake hit. The charity mobilized its international disaster relief team under the direction of David Darg, who arrived on Friday (Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>). The charity has been involved in a number of efforts including sourcing trucks to break the logistical logjam at the airport, delivering search and rescue teams to the quake zone, repairing and servicing a reverse osmosis water treatment plant at Haiti's largest hospital, as well as setting up a makeshift medical clinic with a team of 12 doctors from IsraAID ([www.israaid.org.il](http://www.israaid.org.il)) in the local soccer stadium.

Operation Blessing International will send 100% of all money donated directly to the Haiti relief effort. To donate money or for more information on Operation Blessing International's efforts please log on to [www.ob.org](http://www.ob.org) <<http://www.ob.org>> or <http://www.myowneyes.org/>

## ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is one of the largest charities in America, providing strategic disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development in 22 countries around the world on a daily basis. In 2009, OBI was awarded Charity Navigator's coveted 4 star rating for sound fiscal management for the fifth year in a row, a feat that only 4% of rated charities have ever achieved. Forbes, which currently ranks OBI as one of "America's 200 Largest Charities" as well as one of "America's Most Efficient Charities," awarded OBI a perfect 100% rating in fundraising efficiency and 99% efficiency in charitable commitment. Additionally, the Chronicle of Philanthropy currently ranks OBI as the 39<sup>th</sup> largest charity and the 7<sup>th</sup> largest international charity.

Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 215 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$2.1 billion to date.

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### FOR INTERVIEWS:

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