

MOORING LINES



AUGUST 2003

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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT:	81
NO. OF VISITS:	66
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY:	347
NEW MINISTERING SEAFARERS:	0
NEW CORRESPONDENCE COURSE STUDENTS:	0
NEW BIBLE STUDY LEADER:	0

Edited By: Deacon Gene Lawrence
Managing Editor: Lorraine Stargel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
John Thurber, President
Sheila Wescott, Secretary
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Maynard "Doc" Campbell

Mission Statement

The Tacoma Seafarers' Center is organized to minister holistically, (spiritually, emotionally and physically) to seafarers who come to the Port of Tacoma. Our ministry emphasis is spreading the saving gospel of Jesus Christ world-wide to and through Seafarers.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

I have been reflecting on the first half of this year and how truly blessed I am, as we all are. The Lord has given us a unique opportunity to serve Him in the Port of Tacoma area. As I see the ships come in from all parts of the world, I am overwhelmed with the potential for us to bring the Gospel of Jesus to so many people and to disciple the Nations. As the Director, I sometimes ponder the enormous task of finding enough volunteers, finding the funds to pay for the Bibles and 'Jesus' Videos we use and give to the seafarers, finding the funds to pay for the maintenance and overhead for our Center, and generally just keeping things going. My thoughts are not all consuming and they do not last long, because God shows me His abundance and Love, in the provisions He gives to us.

Just when I ask the question, "How am I going to pay for this?", a generous donation comes in from a new contributor or, one of our loyal supporters puts in a generous extra. As we lose one volunteer or two, another potential volunteer(s) show at our doors. The Lord has blessed this Ministry the most with our loyal supporters and our faithful volunteers. When a small problem comes through our doors, it is not long before the Lord provides the means to deal with it.

In my ramblings on, I guess what I am trying to say is that being involved with the Lord is a win-win situation. As I struggle, the Lord provides not only for me, but also for His Ministry at our Center. When we have the privilege to work in service to the Lord, through helping others and sharing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we receive much from the Lord our God. Serving, instead of being served, brings such peace into my life. I hear much of the same from others who serve. This opportunity to serve God has also brought my family closer together, and we all then receive blessing.

If you have an opportunity to actually get up and physically go out to serve others for the Lord, I know you will receive the blessing of peace in your life. If you have the opportunity to come visit the Tacoma Seafarers' Center, please do, because the Lord can use you here. If you live too far from the Center, then may I suggest service to others through your local congregation. In any event I hope and pray you

will continue to pray for and support our ministry as we seek out those who do not know Jesus, so that we may introduce them to Him.



God's Blessings,
H. Gene Lawrence

TRAVELS IN THE PORT

It has been just over six months since Pearl Ginther had me help her deliver presents to the Seafarers' Center. Amazingly I am still here. *I love it*, and I continue to learn more every week. I spend Wednesdays and Thursdays visiting ships from around the world, taking Seafarers to the Tacoma Mall, Costco, Best Buy, Goodwill, the Post Office, and once in awhile an unmentionable (liquor), plus other numerous special runs, many of which I don't know where I am going until I get there.

The opportunity to serve God at the ships, for those without shore passes, is a sad situation and one that our immigration folks need to address. My favorite time is talking to the cooks on the ships. They tend to invite us to lunch or early dinner. Most of the time I haven't the faintest idea what I am eating (but it's good)!

I thank Lloyd Bovee and Roy Blakeslee for their patience and understanding. (Do you know that paper money should all be placed in the till with the Presidents facing in the same direction?) Just ask Roy!

Now you wonderful readers may be asking where is Ed going with this tale? I have learned that our insurance rates this year have nearly doubled. Secondly, with a greater commitment to visitation of all ships in Port, we consume nearly twice the gas at nearly twice the price of a year ago. We buy our gas at the Flying J, which has the best prices. The large van just had a major fix; you would have thought we were buying a new van after getting the bill.

It is my understanding that fewer white envelopes are being sent back during this time of the year. Yet, the cost of water, maintenance, sewer, refuse, lights, etc. continue to increase. Our staff are minimally paid or they are volunteers

(accepting nothing). Our video of "Jesus" is available in twenty plus languages, Bibles and other materials in over thirty languages. Individually they may seem inexpensive, but a full crew from China or any Country wanting to learn about our Lord, could take up to twenty-four Bibles.



Please help us. We Need You!

In closing, we invite any person receiving this letter, or a friend of yours, to come down and join us for a ride in our van and view our mission at work. **You will love it.** It is truly one of God's unique and beautiful gardens to minister in.

Thank You and God's Blessings,
Edward Egan

UPDATE FROM CHAPLAIN LLOYD BOVEE

In the last ten to fifteen days, we have had Washington State cherries in the market place. The cherries have been extremely good this year. I have been able to bring many boxes of them to the seafarers on different ships. Some of the men have never seen cherries before, and after trying them, have a very surprised look on their faces.



A Motor Vessel, the Oceanic Explorer, a bulk carrier at TEMCO is loading corn. They have been in port for 8 days waiting on cargo. None of the crew is able to get shore passes. There is a guard aboard the ship, stopping the crew from going down on the dock. The crew is made up of a Captain, the cooks are Burmese and the other members are Chinese PRC. Tuesday, the 8th, I was aboard the vessel and dropped off newspapers, T-shirts, reading materials, cherries and greetings from America and Tacoma. The crew wanted phone cards and cell phones so they could call home. I returned on Wednesday with phone cards. The crew had been reading the newspaper ads and asked if I could go shopping for them. They asked if I would have to get a permit to do the shopping. I said we were in America, you only need money. They sent me to Best Buys where I spent over \$5,000.00. After the shopping adventure, I was exhausted. The Chief asked for my home phone number and I gave it to him, because of their plight situation. The Chief called Thursday asking if I could go shopping again.

Friday I returned to Best Buys and Long Drugs store and spent a little over \$3,000.00. I know now why my wife Phyllis tells me she is exhausted after shopping with our daughters.

My personal opinion, if the people that make the day by day decisions depending on who gets shore passes for the seafarers that come to American ports followed the same standards at all other ports of entry, there wouldn't be any illegal aliens problem in our nation.

When I am sharing the gospel with seafarers from other faiths, I always open the Bible to page one and read, "In the beginning God created----". All of these men, no matter how strong and tough they may be, will pray at some time. When there is green water going over the bridge and the bridge is 90 feet above the water line and is at a 20 degrees role, you would pray too. They might ask themselves is the bow coming out of the sea and will this ship right itself? I ask them to read all of chapter one and then ask them what would their god say? Who should I pray to, the one who created everything, or---?

Chaplain Lloyd Bovee

SOMETHING NEW – A BUMPER STICKER

Tacoma Seafarers' Center bumper stickers will now be placed on the bulkhead in the crew's lounge of the ships visited at the Port of Tacoma by those volunteers of the Seafarers' Center. So often the paper information about the Center pinned to a bulletin board accidently gets removed or the bulletin board itself gets replaced and our advertisement is lost. As a much more permanent advertisement - the seafarers will always have information about the Center and a way to reach us.

A special 'Thank You' to Port Chaplain Bovee for acquiring the special funding for this project.



TACOMA SEAFARERS CENTER
253-272-0716
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**Transportation, Fellowship, Phones, Ship Stores, Recreation
 Bible Study, Cable TV, Computer & Internet with email**

NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING -- September 9, 2003 @ 7:00 am

NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – August 26, 2003

TACOMA SEAMENS' CENTER
 1225 EAST ALEXANDER AVE.
 TACOMA, WA 98421

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