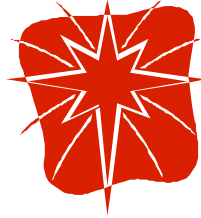




MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA



DECEMBER 2004

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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| SHIPS IN PORT: | 78 |
| NO. OF VISITS: | 77 |
| SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: | 610 |



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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.

WHAT THEY WANTED

(Follow-up to the *Three-Step Process* article in the November, 2004 Mooring Lines.)

After we cleared the third step in the security process aboard the **Castle Island**, the crewmember on watch gave us visitors' badges and told us to come with him. He escorted us up one deck level to the ship's office.

There the first officer greeted us and Lisa began speaking with him in Chinese. She explained that we were from Tacoma Seafarers' Center and that we were responding to a call from the ship's agent to visit the ship because the officers and crew did not have shore passes.

Lisa exchanged greetings and had some small talk with the crewmembers about where the crew was from, what their last port was and what their next port would be. Then I said that I had phone cards for anyone who wanted to purchase one. The officer asked if I had also brought a cell phone for them to use. I was embarrassed and confessed that I had forgotten to bring it. The officer said something that Lisa explained to me later was a kind of rebuke. I promised I would return within two hours and bring it then. I asked how many cards the crew would like to buy; the officer said, "Twenty".

Then a short, but keen-witted young man approached the table and opened a newspaper ad from Circuit City that he had gotten in Honolulu a few days earlier. He introduced himself in fairly good English as the third officer and expressed his desire to buy a laptop computer. Pointing to a certain one in the ad, he said he wanted more information about that one as well as what other laptops might be available. Since I would be returning later I promised to go to Circuit City in Tacoma Mall and make some inquiries. Soon we left.

I dropped Lisa off, went to the Mall, returned to the Center to get the cell phone and returned to the ship. At the time when I gave the laptop information to the third officer who pondered it for a while, a longshoreman came in and noticed what we were discussing. The officer said he wanted a laptop with certain specifications and wanted to pay a certain price. I told him that he wanted a top of the line unit for a bottom of the barrel price and that it would be difficult to find such a good bargain. The longshoreman exclaimed, "That's what I told him earlier this morning!" The officer demurred and finally said he'd think about it.

Meanwhile, I gave the cell phone to the first officer and asked how many phone cards the crew wanted to purchase. They bought only four – what a contrasting number to

"twenty". After agreeing on the time the next day that a Center volunteer would return for the phone, goodbyes were said.

The crew members seemed genuinely happy that someone would take the time to visit them, to express interest, care and concern for them and to offer to respond to their wants. They were surprised to see a native-born Chinese woman as a volunteer, because this is very rare in China. This visit is a typical example of the importance of the Center and its services to seafarers.

George and Lisa Stokes

NOVEMBER 2004 UPDATES

Jesus Christ for some is not what he was when he walked on the earth feeding thousands, raising the dead, and healing the sick, but I want you to know that he is the same. Jesus Christ never changes! "He is the same yesterday, today, and forever", according to Hebrews 13:8.

The following is the story about what the Lord has done for Lou, one of the many who help out down at the Center. Twenty plus years ago, one of her sons was into drugs and also a dealer. The last time she saw him was on a Saturday night and he looked bad. He was dirty, unkempt, and smelly, and Lou told him she didn't want to see him again! Her son left and the Lord helped him to look at himself and he knew that he was in trouble. He had a bad habit that was out of control and he was in trouble with some drug dealers. He went to a friend and he helped to find him a place in Chicago where he could get cleaned up. He left and didn't tell his family where he was going.

Lou turned in a report to the police that he was missing and nothing came back as to where he was. For the next twenty years Lou carried guilt over the last time she saw him and her words screamed back at her. During the week of the 15th her other son called and asked if she would like to talk with Ricky. She told him Ricky was dead. He told her "no" that he was there and wanted to talk with her on the phone. Lou left on a plane Friday to see the son who was dead but now is alive. There is more to the story, but you need to know that God always has a plan.

Now let me tell you about two Captains from two different shipping companies. The first is Captain J.O. Hong of the *M/V C. Duke* and his ship was loading iron at Schnitzer dock. The crew was Korean and Vietnamese – the Koreans had shore passes, but the Vietnamese did not. The Captain asked us at the Center for phone cards and a cell phone with a charger so the crew who did not have

passes could call home. The ones who called Korea had 100 minutes for five dollars and for the same five dollars they had only 15 minutes for the Vietnam calls. These Vietnamese all looked very young, and were not confident in the use of the phone cards. The Captain very carefully wrote out line-by-line instructions on how to use the cards for his young crewmembers. He was the father when these young men needed help. It warmed my heart to see how tender he was with his crew.

The next Captain was Lloyd Luh of the *M/V Ever Grade* and they go to Costco for fresh food supplies regularly. I had lunch with him and was able to see him interact with his crew. When you are aboard a vessel, you can feel the spirit of the ship by the vibes of the crewmembers in how they work together, and this was a happy ship.

Chaplain Lloyd L. Bovee

THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE CENTER

On Thanksgiving Day, we did not have anyone to come to our Center for dinner, so we planned our dinner for the day after Thanksgiving, on 11/26/04, when we had more ships in Port. Pastor Paul Peterson and some members of his church helped prepare the festivities for Friday. My wife, Sarah, prepared a turkey to go along with the wonderful dinner that Sue Ham from the First Baptist Church (Korean) had put together. It was absolutely a delicious meal.



As the picture(s) show, the seafarers who came from several ships, had a wonderful time and enjoyed the food. The Center was not overly packed, since the seafarers came in rotating groups. It was wonderful to share with these most appreciative seafarers. The seafarers had wonderful fellowship with our volunteers, volunteers from Pastor Peterson's church and volunteers who came with Pastor

Onggao from the Filipino Church in Tacoma. No one went away hungry or without a smile on their face. We all look forward to next year's Thanksgiving festivities.

All Praise and thanks to our Father God and His Son Jesus.

Deacon H. Gene Lawrence



A BIG THANK YOU and GOD'S BLESSINGS!!

The Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Kitsap Chapter 30173 Board had a meeting and voted to use some of their operating funds to support local charities. They decided to give \$600.00 to the Tacoma Seafarers' Center as one of receiving charities.

We wish to let our readers know that several Thrivent Chapters have, from time to time, donated to our ministry. We are eternally grateful for the support, as we reach out to the seafarer with the truth of God's Word.

I pray you all had a Blessed Thanksgiving. We have been truly Blessed at the Center.

Gene Lawrence



NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – NO DECEMBER MEETING
 NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – NO DECEMBER MEETING



GOD'S BLESSINGS AS WE REMEMBER THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR – CHRIST JESUS

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