



MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

ASCENSION



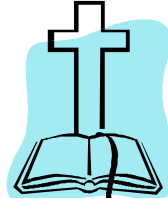
MAY 2006

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Printed Monthly by The Tacoma Seafarers' Center

WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 80
NO. OF VISITS: 76
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 792



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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.

HIS NAME

Arriving in front of Best Buy a few minutes before the scheduled time, I stopped the van and waited. Ten minutes after the time the seaman had requested to be picked up, he was still nowhere to be seen. I called the office to report that he was a no-show and that I would leave. The coordinator agreed. I started the engine and began to pull away.

Just at that moment, I spotted a young man rushing out the front door carrying several bags of items he had purchased. He waved to me and I stopped suddenly. He climbed into the van and breathlessly explained that after he had called to be picked up, he went back inside to buy something else. He admitted that was a mistake and he almost missed his ride.

On our way back to his ship we talked about his country, as I had visited it before. He was so happy to know that I had some experience there. He said this was his last voyage before going on holiday for two months. He would fly out from Sea-Tac Airport in six hours for the 25-hour flight to his home in Calcutta, India. He had been away from his wife and a 4-year old son for five and a half months and he was very anxious to see them again. He had been a seaman for 14 years, starting at the age 20.

At that moment we arrived at his ship. He got out, thanked me gratefully for the ride and I wished him a safe trip home. But, I didn't learn his name.

George Stokes

"We must show them we care, before they care what we know."

Rev. Ray Eckhoff

MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THE 'GREENWICH BRIDGE and THE HAT'!

On April 6th the **M/V GREENWICH BRIDGE** arrived at Husky Terminal on its maiden voyage from a shipyard in Korea. The **GREENWICH BRIDGE** is a "new class" of ship for **K LINE**, being both longer in length and wider and due to the width unable to traverse the Panama Canal.

Fred and I met the Captain and most of the crew on Friday April 7th as they took full advantage of the facilities at the Center. Many of the crew members were wearing a fine looking cap commemorating the maiden voyage. I commented to the first two crew members I met (Roger Invierno and Ricardo De Castro) that it would be great to have a cap like that. Fred's comment, "It was more like begging".

The Captain from Korea arrived a little later and they requested transportation to a local supermarket. Fred and I took them to Fred Meyer for their shopping needs and told them we would return in a couple of hours. Upon our return, they had purchased a considerable supply of grocery items and they were happy with the selection and price. The store manager at Fred Meyer should have been very pleased with the day's receipts.

On the return trip to the Center, we overheard the two same crew members discussing with the Captain our comments on the cap. Roger and Ricardo gave up their hats to give to Fred and I. A grateful **THANK YOU** to these two crew members for their gesture. The Captain assured us Roger and Ricardo would receive new hats.

This was a first visit to Tacoma for the Captain and the majority of the crew. We will look forward to future arrivals with *the hat* on our heads.

Tom Harris / Fred Orton



GOD CAN TRANSFORM THE DIFFICULT INTO SOMETHING GOOD

Lately, on my shift, the Center had been fairly quiet. The past few had only one ship requesting transportation and few seafarers coming in to the Center for purchase of phone cards, use of the phones, internet, etc. Each day, we ask God to guide who comes in with needs and that we would be His way to serve them. April 18th had been quiet, including my not even seeing a sailor! When I came to work on the 19th, the schedule had two ships being served by trips to stores, and a sailor was using the internet at the moment.

I was preparing for another quiet evening. Paul Peterson, already out on his runs for the two ships, was our only driver, as there are no volunteers available Wednesdays. We prefer to have two drivers as, before this quiet spell, we can usually use more than one. At 5:30 pm, the phone rang from the TEMCO pier asking for transportation for five men wanting to come to the Center to buy phone cards and make phone calls to their families. I called Paul on his cell phone to see if he could fit them in. He had already arranged to take his passengers to more than one store and more than one load of men from those ships so would not be back until close-up time. I hated to tell TEMCO we couldn't do it, but that's what happens when we are short on volunteers. The only alternative is for the pier to call a taxi which costs them about \$20 one way to the stores. At 5:50 pm, the phone rang again with a request from the APM terminal for transportation to stores for five more men. I already knew I had to turn them down, too. We suggest they call in early the following day, but sometimes the ship is leaving before that. At 6 pm, the phone rang again and was from the W.U.T. pier asking for transportation for men to stores and the Center to use the phones. It was very hard to realize that we had to decline service to all these men. Then in walked five men from the **Maersk Neustadt** (from the Maersk pier), a ship only a year old carrying the big containers with "stuff" we buy in all our stores. This was the crew's first visit to Tacoma. These were the officers who were from Eastern Europe (and the workers are from the Philippines). They are gone from their families nine months straight and take 70 days to make their rounds of Ports (including Tacoma, Vancouver, British Columbia, Dutch Harbor in Alaska, Korea,

Japan, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China, Malaysia, Yemen, Omen, Philippines and I can't remember where else)! They work from 8 am until around 5:30 pm and then have free time. The officers bought phone cards and other items from our little store and seemed to just want to talk and be away from the ship. At 7:45 pm, five of the Filipino men from the ship walked in to buy phone cards, use the phone and to see if they could get rides to stores. I, again, had to turn them down. They stayed around to talk and use the phones, etc.

After awhile, for some reason I suddenly remembered Pastor Jerry Onggao. He is the pastor of a Filipino church in town and has offered to come help, even with driving when needed. He also, usually, has a short (or sometimes long!) Bible study and/or time of prayer with the sailors he serves, all in their Tagalog language. I didn't have much hope as Jerry is a busy man, although he has always seemed to come to serve whenever we have called him, so I prayed and called him. After all, there wasn't much time to go to any stores at 8:15 pm when I called him, but I thought I could find out if he might be available if the same thing happened again. He answered his cell phone and said he would leave his church's prayer meeting and be right down! He soon arrived and swooped the five men out to the van and off to K-Mart, which is open late. When they returned at 9:45 pm, arms holding all they'd wanted to buy and having seen a bit of Tacoma, they were worried about how late I'd had to wait for their return! I was jubilant that God had taken care of them and trusted He would take care of the other men we'd had to turn down, and I hoped He would bring in more volunteers to drive for us.

Sue McCarty

MAY 2006 REPORT

There are many ways that our GOD blesses us, and one way is when crewmembers go shopping and get rebates. They are unable to mail the rebates and be sure that they will get them back. On the good ship *M/V Stoikos*, Electrician Rogelio Pelonia, bought a computer and he gave me the \$50.00 rebate for the Center.

I have been given a supply of blackberry, raspberry, and strawberry jams and jellies from Alice and Phyllis for the seafarers. I have been giving them out over the last few months. This time I had my camera and took a picture of the Chief Officer on the *M/V Stoikos*. The buns you see in the picture are just out of the oven and they smell oh so good, see the next picture when he bites into that bun with raspberry jam on it, a picture worth a 1,000 words.

In March's report you saw the change of the captain on the vessel *M/V Lausanne*. This month they are changing out the Chief Officers. The new Chief Officer is Emil Grubelic; on the right in the white shirt is Goran Cargonja who will be going home at the next port of call. The new Chief Engineer is Milan Grbic, the one going home to see his daughter's new baby is Veljko Vukasovic in the gray sweatshirt. Each Chief going home received a jar of jam to take with them from the ladies in the States.

The cook/chief on the *M/V Lausanne* received a new apron. I like telling about things like this because it keeps the supply coming. As you know, our daughter Mary does demo's and they are a by-product of her work. It looks great on Zlatko Zonta and it doesn't hurt Nesquik.

Now you can REJOICE with me on the *M/V Hebei Mercy* loading soybeans at TEMCO. I came aboard with phone cards, cell phone with charger and a sack of goodies, plus 26 t-shirts. I met with the Captain and chief officer; there were 29 crewmembers all Chinese and only one person had a shore pass, the cook. They were going to be loaded in 36 to 40 hours and Captain Ziangrui Zhang asked for the 2nd cell phone and charger. I went back to 1118 PT and picked up the cell and 3 more t-shirts. When I returned, the Chief Engineer Yugang Wang was reading the Testament that I put into each sack of goodies; he was practicing his English and numbers. I asked the Chief Officer Weihua Huang [in the picture with the red cap on] if he would like a book that had Chinese and English in columns side by side. "Yes," how many "TEN"!!! You got them! Man I just floated off the ship REJOICING in GOD'S fine hand in all of this, I had just given him 10 Chinese/English Testaments. I was telling the guard on the way out and he asked for one so he could freshen up on his Chinese. Oh, they got 2 jars of jam as well.

In the Faith of our Fathers,
Chaplain Lloyd L. Bovee



M/V Stoikos
Electrician, Ragelio Pelonia



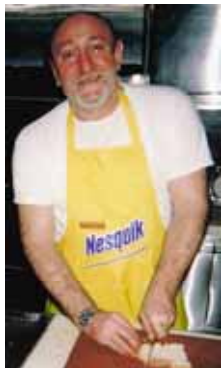
M/V Stoikos
Chief Officer, Efren Mora



M/V Lausanne - Chief Officers
Emil Grubelic, Goran Cargonja



M/V Lausanne - Chief Engineers
Milan Grbic, Veljko Viekosovic



M/V Lausanne - Cook/Chief
Zlatko Zonta



M/V Hebei Mercy
Chief Officer Weihua Hwang



NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – June 5, 2006
NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – May 23, 2006
 Devotions: Pearl Ginther
 Activity: Potluck by election of new officers
 Cookies: Joyce Basset
 Hostess: Iris Kramer



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