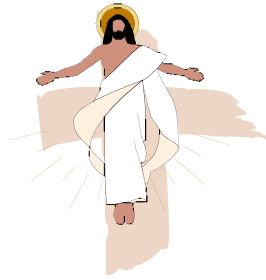




MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA



OCTOBER 2006

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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 84
NO. OF VISITS: 78
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 705



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Managing Editor: Lorraine Stargel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
John Thurber, President
Roger Lawrence, Treasurer
Donna Eckhoff
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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.

FLEET CHEF

Ms. Cheryl Bond is the Fleet Chef on the **S/R Kodiak**, an oil tanker that off-loads its product at the U.S. Oil facility in the Port of Tacoma. The ship travels between Alaska ports and Tacoma every two weeks, with intermediate stops between.

On a Thursday afternoon, I responded to a call to pick up a sailor at the U.S. Oil gate. After I got there, I started to look for a typical sailor. I stopped at the gate and was about to ask the security guard in the booth to my left where the sailor was, when a tapping came on the passenger side of the van. I looked to my right and saw a young lady. I rolled down the window and she said, "I am the sailor you have come to pick up." I said, "Please get in".

Ms. Bond wanted to go to the post office to send overnight mail to her hometown church in Jackson, Tennessee. The Deliverance Cathedral of Prayer was having its Bishop's Consecration Ceremony in two days and she wanted to send her remembrances to them. During the drive to the post office she told me that she had been employed as a chef for 23 years and was looking forward to retiring in 2 years. She misses her parents and 2 brothers.

She said that when she first started working, she would go to bars with the rest of her fellow sailors when they had shore leave, but a life-changing experience made her stop doing that. Now she follows more Christ-like interests. She is an evangelist who prays for her fellow crewmembers and tries to lead them to Christ. She had previously obtained the "Purpose Driven Life" from the Center and thoroughly enjoys it.

George Stokes

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

Rev. Ray Eckhoff

GO ON MISSION

Christians who have gone on a mission trip to another country know what a blessing it is to present Jesus to people who may not know Him personally. At the same time, these Missionaries have a unique opportunity to experience a different culture first hand. This can be a heart changing time in the life of a believer.

While not everyone is able to travel overseas on a mission trip, there is a great opportunity to go "on Mission" right here in Tacoma. The **Tacoma Seafarers' Center** is a Christian based ministry to the sailors that call on the Port of

Tacoma. These sailors come from every corner of the world. I have talked with people from Mainland China, Taiwan, India, Myanmar (formerly Burma), Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, and Jamaica just to name a few.

The Center provides a place for crew members to get off the ship and relax, for a few hours, with coffee, cookies, and TV. We also provide an internet connection with e-mail access and phones that the crews can use to call home. All of these services are provided free to the sailors.

Another major service we provide (also free) is transportation to the Mall, Costco, or other nearby stores for personal shopping. Some of the ships take this opportunity to replenish their stock of fresh or special foods for their crews. This service is especially appreciated by the crews because the turnaround time for ships in Port is so quick these days. Most are in and out of Port within forty-eight hours and so sailors sometimes don't have time to replace the day-to-day necessities of life.

In addition, and more importantly, while ministering to the physical needs of these crewmen we are also often given the opportunity to minister to their spiritual needs. This ministry provides a gentle, non-threatening opportunity to spread the name of Jesus through written material in every language (Bibles, tracts, periodicals, and Bible studies) as well as a friendly smile and helpful attitude. Whether it was the girl (Cadet) from Taiwan who was surprised to learn that Jesus rose from the dead, or the young Filipino man who, one evening, prayed for Jesus to become his Savior, there have been many examples of God's hand at work in people's lives through our Center.

If you enjoy meeting people and learning about them and their culture, one on one, we have a place for you. Volunteer opportunities range from being available to answer the phone and schedule pickups, to driving our vans from the Center, or the ship, to the shopping destinations. Your time commitment can be as little as one afternoon or evening a week to two or more days a week. Of course, both men and women are more than welcome.

Personally, I have found my time well spent in the year I have been volunteering at the **Tacoma Seafarers' Center**. I have been blessed over and over as I go "on Mission" every Friday.

If you would like more information about this ministry please contact me at: 253-686-8337 or at 4fastfred@net-venture.com. I would be glad to put you in contact with Gene Lawrence, our Executive Director. He can determine what will work best for you, as well as the Center.

See you on the Mission Field!

Fred Orton

A SPARK THAT GOT A FIRE GOING

Over a month ago as I was visiting with a Filipino Seafarer, I asked him if he would like a pocket-size New Testament. When he said yes, I picked it up to show him that it also included the Psalms and Proverbs in the back, which helps guide us in our daily walk with the Lord. Also tucked inside was a printed card which clearly points the way to heaven to someone who doesn't know who Jesus is. He graciously took it, thanked me, and showed me how nicely it fit into his shirt picket.

One month later, this same ship returned and this same Seafarer came over to me at the Center and asked, "Do you remember me – you gave me a bible when I was here last month? I wanted you to know that I read three pages in it every night and sometimes am able to share what I read with my fellow seafarers." I rejoiced with him in his eagerness and faithfulness to not only study the bible, but also to be anxious to 'Pass it On'.

Donna Eckhoff

I MISSED MY SHIP

The *Hyundai National* calls at the ports of Seattle and Tacoma. While in Seattle, the ship sailed away without one crew. The crew member called to his agent in his home country. That agent notified the agent in Seattle and then U.S. Immigration was notified of where to pick him up. Since Richie was not a *national* citizen of the USA, he was taken to the NW Immigration Detention Center. He has been in there for 5 weeks and his ship has returned. We don't know why immigration is taking so long to process him, but Richie wants to go home. He had left all his belongings on board the ship, along with all his money. We have visited him a few times during the last month. He had no money to buy phone cards to call his wife, so we got his wife's telephone number and called her to let her know he is OK.

He misses his wife and son. Richie wonders why they are keeping him so long. He cried, "I just want to go home." We were able to send a New Testament in his language and other items. He has written a few letters to us. He writes, "I really don't know what to do. I just keep praying to God to help me survive. I do really miss my family and it is killing me! I have learned a lot being detained. It's hard to live this way...and there's nobody who can comfort you for those nights, but the Lord."

Please pray for Richie and a quick release. He missed his ship, but he misses family much, much more.

Chaplain Paul Peterson

DOES FOCUSED PRAYER MATTER?

We experimented to see if praying specifically by name for seafarers for one month would create any difference in the atmosphere on the ship and in the receptivity level of the hearts of the seafarers towards Jesus and our opportunities to meet and serve the seafarers.

After 5 weeks, the *Ever Garden* returned. What could we expect to see? Would there be any evidence that God was at work on board that ship? Here is a summary of what happened. *** Three (3) specifically related stories from this ship will be published in the November newsletter. ***

1. Lunch and Dinner with the whole crew of the ship. That's a first.
2. At Lunch we met my good neighbor who is from Taiwan.
3. During shopping at the mall with 2 Filipinos, we met my daughter who went on mission to the home town of one of the seafarers.
4. During shopping at Costco with the 2nd group, we met a Filipino friend who shared the gospel with a Filipino seafarer.
5. On the following day, we bumped into another friend from Taiwan at Costco, when I was with the Captain and C/E.
6. Miss Chen (2/O) read the whole gospel of Luke which I gave on previous voyage.
7. Normally Evergreen ships' crew go directly back to their ships after shopping to let other crew go out, or to get ready for sailing. This time 2 came to the Center. One lady officer took the book "Purpose Driven Life" in Chinese.
8. A 'Purpose Driven Life "What on Earth Am I Here For?"' group was started.
9. Bilingual (Chinese/English) Gospels of John were accepted by all Taiwanese.

Chaplain Paul Peterson

HE UNDERSTANDS THE GREAT COMMISSION

Several months ago, I was able to give a pocket-size New Testament to a young and vivacious Chinese Seafarer. As he was about to get into the van to return to his ship, he turned around and said to me, "I know just exactly how I will use this new bible. Many seafarers gather routinely in the airport in Hong Kong before flying out to where they will board their respective ships. I will circulate around the group, open my bible and tell them about Jesus." He then stated, with a big smile on this face, that he would have lots to share with me when he returned to Tacoma.

Of course, I greatly praised him for his excitement to share the Gospel. I'm waiting for his return trip.

Donna Eckhoff



NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – December 4, 2006
NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – October 24, 2006

Devotions: Sylvia Brandt

Hostesses: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Cookies: Rita Vines



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