



MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA



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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 70
NO. OF VISITS: 69
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 800



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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.

PRAYER REQUEST

As all of you loyal supporters may be aware, it takes money to provide a full time Paid Port Chaplain, as well as to provide the services and God's Word to the seafarers that we serve. We are committed to expanding God's Kingdom here on earth. The article that you will read in this issue from a seafarer expressing his gratitude for our service to the seafarer, shows just how committed we are. I, therefore, ask that you will pray to our Heavenly Father for the blessing of the necessary finances to continue our work at the level that we are and if it be His will, to enhance our service and availability to the seafarer as we tell them of the Good News of The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In His Service,
Deacon H. Gene Lawrence
Executive Director

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

Rev. Ray Eckhoff

LETTER FROM A SEAFARER

To Seafarers' Center,

I am 22 years of age and this is my second contract as a seafarer on a foreign container vessel. It's my 9th month on this ship. Though I had just started this career, I had already experience a lot on seafaring. I learned to keep my pain on the ship and on the ship alone to prevent people whom I care about back home from worrying about my welfare. I learned that being a seafarer doesn't just require physical strength, but also mental and spiritual strength. Everything that I do on the ship doesn't just depend on what I can do alone, but to our maker to whom I entrust my whole being. There are sleepless nights which are haunted by weariness to those I had left back home. Sometimes I ask myself the reason for enduring such loneliness. There are instances, I admit, when the thought of giving up crossed my mind. But, then LOVE knew what to do. This work is the best way to earn money; money to provide every expense for my brother's studies. Selfishness makes us want to stop, but LOVE knows better – endure.

On a mixed crew vessel, I met a lot of seafarers from different parts of the world. Each worked hard to make a difference out of their lives. To provide all the needs for the family they'd left. Every time that a ship would dock, the port you could notice the smile on every seafarer onboard. Hoping that by the end of the day, though tired, they could have the chance to go on shore and make a short phone call to their love ones. But, sometimes life's irony would strike us on the

moment that we are most vulnerable.

I hear a story of a father who had some trouble sleeping worrying about his 1st born son who had been sick for days. A story about a seafarer who lost his wife for another man after a contract. A story about a seafarer who stopped believing God for the sufferings he had experience. Some seafarers would share their personal stories to ease the pain that they had been going through and to be console. I heard a lot of stories. A real sailor's life stories of sadness, tragedy, triumph and inspiration. I guess we are all familiar of how tough life is. But, you know what amazes me the most? We manage to stand up though we had so many differences on our culture, religion belief, etc.

The seafarers' center is one of the living proof of how we manage to go against the odds and stand up. The seafarers' center plays a very vital part on every sailor's life. The volunteers from the seafarers' center reminds us sailors of the important role we play in the society. The volunteers helps us with the things we need, they also comfort us by showing that we are not alone by sharing some short stories about themselves and having a good conversation over some news. At the end of the day, they recharge our soul with care as we go back to our temporary homes – our ship.

You see, I had also been a volunteer. I volunteered on a juvenile/youth rehabilitation center for almost 4 years, but only during vacations and Christmas as one of the facilitators. In the beginning every efforts that I make seems to be taken for granted by those I want to help. But, as time goes by, instead of giving up, I had been challenged and more eager to do what I am called. “Just as you did it to the least of those who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25.

As the day ends, though tired, I feel fulfilled for I had been given the chance to help others in some small ways of mine. I hope with this simple letter I could be able to make you guys smile, for we seafarers appreciate all your efforts and we are grateful for all that you guys had done. In behalf of all the seafarers around the world, thank you so much.

Yours truly,
M.E.

Christmas Boxes

They are in, come and get yours. This is the time of the year that is exciting ... when we give out these gifts to seafarers who have, in many cases, never received a Christmas gift before. Of course, this also gives us a unique opportunity to share the Gospel message about the Christ that some seafarers have not met before. Praise be to God the Father for His Wondrous Love !



