



MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA



AUGUST 2007

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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 91
NO. OF VISITS: 86
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 569



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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.

CHRISTMAS BOXES NEEDED!!

URGENT need for more Christmas boxes this year - **delivery before Thanksgiving.**



Please pick up your Christmas boxes from the Center in August. Information about items to be placed in these special boxes will be made available at that time.

Appreciation from seafarers is shared in the letter that follows.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!

To: The Seafarers' Center

It's been quite a while since the last time I wrote to the Seafarers' Center to thank them for all their efforts and sacrifices that they had done all these years. I joined back the **Hyundai** vessel at Hong Kong last December 17, 2006 after two short months of vacation at home. I spend my Christmas and New Year at the sea with 25 other crew members. It was my first time to celebrate such a very awaited season onboard the ship away from those who I love most.

Last Christmas at the ship while we were celebrating, I notice that some seafarer laughing aloud, some are singing Christmas carols, while others are just simply sharing stories of how they used to spend this season at home. To be honest, though every one onboard seems so happy of how we had celebrated the holiday, still you could sense a feeling of longing for all those that we seafarers had left back home. I was in the middle of my story about how I used to attend mass at the eve of Christmas and hurried back home excitedly to open gifts that I had receive, when our good captain had called our attention and told us that we are going to receive gift from those people who appreciates all our works and care of how we spend this season. I had been touch not only by the gift that I had received but to the thought that someone I don't know wrapped and prepared a gift for me and for the rest of my companions onboard. That moment that I had received that gift from you guys really had touched and inspired me in so many ways. In behalf of my fellow crew onboard the **Hyundai** kingdom and all those seafarers that you had reached, **Thank You So Much.** May God continue to bless us all a life abundant of Care, Hope and Love.

I guess by the time you read this, its already summer; but hey guys, isn't Christmas spirit should be celebrated the

whole year around. I hope I am not late enough to say thanks for everything.

Sincerely yours,
M.E. Marc Eala

BIBLE IN ENGLISH

In April, a missionary to Mongolia was visiting her mother in the area. She was clearing out items and found a big "family" Bible in English with very beautiful pictures portraying scenes from the Scriptures. She asked God what to do with it and brought it to us. A few weeks later, a Filipino man from the **Hyundai Dominion** ship came to the Center and saw it. He asked if he could have it, explaining that his grandfather had been a pastor at a church in the Philippines and the church there only had a small Bible. He was thrilled to have the Bible and we are thankful God found someone who would cherish it and make use of it.

Sue Bauer

MULTI-MEDIA MIXTURE

Seafarers have been blessed by receiving the Scriptures on printed page. Bibles in their own languages have given them a new excitement to read God's Word. We have added a new dimension in the resources we offer seafarers. A multi-media mixture, including DVD videos of the life of Jesus and other Bible related stories, have helped with the growth of seafarers in their understanding of Jesus and the Bible. Here are a couple letters from the men.

"I am just sending an email and hope get some DVD's like you provided before of Jesus Christ...so hopefully when arrived in Tacoma we can visit to seaman's center so we can call on telephone or whatever. I hope for your kind consideration with God's guidance. God bless and more power to all you out there. Love and prayers, A.

"I want to say thank you for your generosity to you and the rest of the volunteers at the Tacoma Seafarers' Center. Also, last week we watch the movie about Jesus with most of the Filipino crew. It was really an inspiring moment to see seafarers watching the movies and analyzing each moment and you know all throughout the movie some are asking questions. I guess it's a sign that they really are trying to absorb what they watch. Thank you so much for all the help you guys had provided." Respectfully yours, M.

And, we at TSC want to thank you, our readers, for your generous support of our multi-media outreach. Without you we cannot be a blessing to the seafarers' souls.

Gratefully,
Chaplain Paul Peterson

"I LIVE BENEATH THAT MOUNTAIN"

The New Testaments for the various Filipino languages come with a unique cover design unique to each region of the Philippines. A Filipino seafarer burst into a big smile as he picked up a Bible in his own language. He brought it over to me and said, "This photo is of the Mayon Volcano in my home town. I live in this village beneath the mountain." He was delighted to be able to take the Bible, in Bicolano, back to his ship with him.

It has been so wonderful to have a good supply of Bibles in many languages. Many thanks again to all who help make this possible.

Submitted by
Donna Eckhoff



about some local history in our effort. The turnout was better than expected (over 600 participants) and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Awards were presented in categories of running, biking, walking or teams. We wanted a medal to suspend from the walls at TSC, but ended up 10 points shy in a team effort.

I would recommend this event to anyone interested in keeping healthy and the web-site for upcoming Street Scramble events is - StreetScramble.com. Have Fun!

Tom Harris

"WILL HIS SIX YEAR OLD CHILD LEAD HIM?"

Several Ukrainians from the ship *YM Colombo* were browsing the Christian literature one early July evening and as I joined them, I spoke of finding a Bible in their language. One seafarer said, "Oh, we have Ukrainian Bibles aboard ship." I smiled and asked, "Do you find time to read it every day?" He answered, "Oh, no." I mentioned to him, "The book of John would be a good book to start with. "Then I shared several passages from it.

I was saddened when he calmly responded with, "I don't believe in God and when this life is over, that's it for all of us." Since he doesn't believe in the Bible, I responded, "Only God could create this wonderful world and all that's in it." He answered, "That's an easy explanation and if there does happen to be a God, then that would be good for both you and I."

He then spoke about how in former generations when the Ukraine was a part of Russia, that it was not to one's advantage to be a Christian. A person was considered a second class citizen and the prospect of getting a job was slim. During this time, many fell away from the reality of God. In spite of these trials, however, in the Ukraine today there is still a strong Christian community.

Then he told me, "My mother was a Christian and my father was an atheist." Then he smiled and said, "I have a six year old daughter. One day she said, 'Daddy, I have Jesus in my heart.'" I asked him, "You wouldn't do anything to discourage your daughter's faith, would you?" Thankfully, his answer was a firm "No."

Let's together pray continually that God would send His Holy Spirit into the heart of this lost man's heart and mind so that he will know and accept Jesus into his heart as well. His ship will return in 35 days and hopefully we will be able to have further contact with him."

Submitted by
Donna Eckhoff

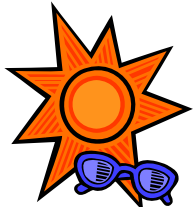
"We must show them we care, before they care what we know."
Rev. Ray Eckhoff

THE STREET SCRAMBLE

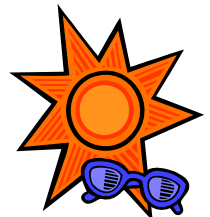
As volunteers at the Tacoma Seafarers' Center, we need to keep physically fit in order to climb ship gangplanks, ladders, steep stairs, and general access to various levels of the ships arriving at the Port of Tacoma. With this in mind, fellow volunteer Fred Orton and I participated in the Gig Harbor "Street Scramble" on a recent afternoon.

What is a Street Scramble? This event is presented by the **YMCA** of Tacoma-Pierce County and sponsored by various health departments, fire and medic facilities and local civic organizations. Participants are given a map and certain checkpoint locations are circled on this map. Each checkpoint is valued by points from the starting area. The further the checkpoints are away from the starting area, the more point value. Once reaching the description on the map, you are required to answer a certain question in regards to that specific spot. (For instance - one checkpoint was the old Catholic Church in Gig Harbor - the question was how many steps to the main entrance - ten.) The time limit for this event was two hours and participants were penalized for being late.

Fred and I probably walked a good five miles to different checkpoints around the Gig Harbor area and also learned



NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – NO AUGUST MEETING
NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – August 28, 2007
Devotions: Sue Bauer
Snacks: Joyce Bassett
Decorations: Lou Roach



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