



MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA



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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 86
NO. OF VISITS: 83
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 702



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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.



Kapamilya is the Tagalog word for family. Family can be fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters; but, also includes cousins, aunts and uncles, nephews and nieces.

We have been privileged with joy to witness **Kapamilya** connections between seafarers and their relatives in the Port of Tacoma. Here are some recent connections.

On a Friday night, a Filipino seafarer contacted his aunt and uncle in Seattle with our cell phone. They drove through tough Friday traffic to come and meet their **Kapamilya** at our Center. They were late so we kept calling them to see how close they were. Eventually they arrived but drove passed our Center and we called again to tell them to make a U-turn. The seafarers face was beaming when he met his **Kapamilya**.

Not Even a Train Could Stop Him



One Filipino had a cousin living down in Oregon. She and her husband drove all the way from mid Oregon (5 plus hours) to come and have a few hours with their **Kapamilya**. However, they got stuck with their GPS guided SUV. We called them since they were late and found out they were within a ¼ mile of our Center, stopped by a train.

I gave them directions on how to get around the train by making a U-turn and then a left turn at the stop sign. I put the seafarer in my car and we drove to go meet his **Kapamilya**. We got down the street and the same train was blocking us. Their car was on one side of the tracks and our car was on the wrong side of the tracks separated by one box car. We told them to wait where they were and we would take the long way around. Guess what? We got where they were but they moved. There was only one way out and around so we turned back and tried to **track** them down.



Good news! They were stopped on the next street over by the same train. We caught them, thanks to the train and the seafarer hopped out of my car in their car with excitement.

Just a Phone Call Away



A Korean seafarers' sister stays in Federal Way. He met her once before but this time she was not answering her cell phone. We tried too and could not connect, so the Chief Officer, knowing her church name had me find the phone number of the church. We called but no one was there, so he left a message for her to call him. Finally, the Chief called home to Korea. They had the same number for his sister, so that didn't help. But, his sister in Korea had the phone number of a best friend in Federal Way. The Chief called to Federal Way to the friend and she could not connect to his sister. So, the friend drove over to her apartment and knocked on her door. Later we gave the Chief Officer a ride to Federal Way to the Mall so he could be with his sister.

This process took 24 hours, but happily they eventually met face to face. By the way, it turned out that the sister's phone was stolen and she had to have that cell number cancelled. But, not even being a phone call away could keep the **Kapamilya** connection coming full circle.

Wow! That's My Mom!



A Filipino was watching a favorite game show because he knew his mother would be in the audience. His friends were gathered all around watching too. Then all of a sudden he shouted, "That's my mom!" "That's my

mom!" The host of the show was going through the audience with the microphone giving the people a chance to say "Hello." So this seafarers' mom got her chance and talked and gave a gift of food on the show to the host.

I looked out of the corner of my eye and I saw tears welling up in the eyes of the seafarer. Later he sent a text message on his phone to his mom. He told her, "I saw you on TV."

At Tacoma Seafarer Center we love to see seafarers connect with their separated family members. This was an unusual way. But, if we had the proper equipment we could see the seafarers talking on our computers and visually viewing their family on the computer.



North or South

Kapamilya can also include old friends. A seafarer from India had an old friend from college days who lived in Bellevue. He called him from our Center and asked if they could get some time together. He was packing that very moment for a trip up to Vancouver. It was becoming late, but the magnetic pull of **friendship** pointed this man's compass south. He postponed his packing and instead of heading north he drove an hour south (through Friday traffic) to meet his **Kapamilya**. Friendship is defined seen.

The Connection

Kapamilya can also include new friends or never before met friends and are counted family.

A Romanian came to our Center at 9:30 am on a Saturday and asked to go to Costco. He had two strikes against him. Officially we open at noon. Secondly, we normally don't just take one person shopping (in order to be good stewards of our resources).

On the way to Costco he asked, "Is there a Romanian church in Tacoma?" I told him, "Maybe, but what about

Russian?" He said, "No." Then I tried, "Slavic". He wanted to meet some Romanian **Kapamilya**. He said, "I have not spoken Romanian for 3 months." Obviously he was lonely. I made a phone call to a pastor who might know and he came back with a couple phone numbers. First one, no answer. Second one, the daughter said that her father was out of town. She gave me the phone number of her uncle. I called and he could not speak English so well. His wife got on the phone and I told her the situation. I said, "I will pick up the seafarer at Costco at noon, then I can call you back and you can talk to him on the phone.

Well, at high noon, I arrived at the O.K. Corral Costco. Guess who was there? The local Romanians that I have never met before and whom the seafarer never met before. I waited in the van while they visited for 15 min. in front of the entrance. In short, they invited him for a meal and church on the next voyage. The seafarer was so happy. He met **Kapamilya** Christians.

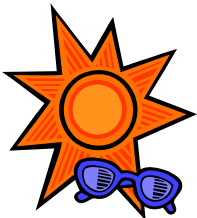
The Cross and Kapamilya



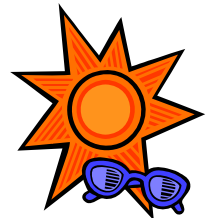
As you can see, in each of these stories people were committed to get in touch with their **Kapamilya**. Here at Tacoma Seafarers' Center we help them do that. TSC is especially committed to getting the seafarers in touch with Christ so we can all be **Kapamilya in Him**.

Submitted by Paul Peterson

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



 NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – **September 11, 2007**
 NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **September 25, 2007**
 Devotions: Betty Hoffman
 Hostess: Sue Bauer
 Snacks: Joyce Bassett



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