



MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA



OCTOBER 2007

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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 82
NO. OF VISITS: 79
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 638



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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.

SHARING THE WORD IN CHINESE

Tuesday evening, August 7th, had been quiet, until the volunteers, Herb and Paul brought men to the Center from their trips to the Mall. The sailors wanted to use the Internet and telephones to communicate with friends and family back home.

They were there only a short time but, because we are blessed with literature in their native languages, we were able to give them God's Word to take with them. Ten of the men were from the People's Republic of China. We offered them the gospel of John in simplified Chinese. Most of them accepted that and one, after walking out the door, reading it, returned to ask if he could also take the whole bible in simplified Chinese.

We thank God that His Holy Spirit accompanies His Word when the sailors leave us.

Sue Bauer

She writes "Thank you for always concerned about me. I will take good care of myself. Few days ago, I met a woman in the street. She invited me to a church tonight. I will go there and try to understand. I think I need a religion to make me not feel lonely deep in my heart."

She does not need a religion. She needs Jesus. I e-mailed her back, "Yes, people can be lonely in their heart even if they have a good job and a good friend. I believe people need to know Jesus. Then the void or emptiness inside can be filled. You do not need a religion to make you feel good inside. You need Jesus. Your friend's church should teach you about Jesus. Then you need to decide if Jesus is the truth or not. I remember what you said almost two years ago. You read the life of Jesus... you said, 'It is too good to be true. Nobody can be that perfect.' Learn more about Jesus with your friend."

Thanks for those of you who support the Tacoma Seafarers' Center so that we can continue to stay in touch with seafarers who have been to our shores, but are now on their shores.

Paul Peterson

THANK YOU TO ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, GIG HARBOR

I'm sure the volunteers at the Center on Port of Tacoma Road have noticed the recent supply of clothes that we have on the racks for the benefit of the crew members. This is all due to the exceptional "rummage sale" at St. Nicholas Church, Gig Harbor. This is an annual three-day event put on by the Knights of Columbus. My wife Barbara and I attended the sale and observed a good supply of clothing items. We talked with "Dutch" Dolney, a member of the Knights of Columbus, to determine whether we could obtain the clothes at a certain discount. Mentioning the Tacoma Seafarer's Center during our conversation, "Dutch" informed us we could come over on Sunday, the closing day of the event and take all the clothes we wanted at no charge.

Thank You to "Dutch" Dolney and St. Nicholas Church for the very generous supply of clothing for the crew members that walk through our doors at the Center. They were very appreciative of the clothing items.

Tom Harris



THANK YOU

I cannot say thank you to all of the volunteers for everything you do, as much as I would like to. Many do things without seeking recognition. Everything that is done is vital to our overall success. I would like to say **special thanks** for a couple of big jobs that were done this summer. To **Terry Nelson**, my brother **Roger Lawrence** and his oldest son **Kevin Lawrence**, for the replacement of our main water line that sprung a leak at our main building. Thank you so much. It has really reduced our water bill. **Tom Harris, John Dowd and Terry Nelson** fulfilled a great need by painting our weather and atmosphere worn Chapel. It looks great, Thank you! If I omitted anyone, I am truly sorry.

H. Gene Lawrence
Executive Director

STILL IN TOUCH

One seafarer just e-mailed and told of her struggles within herself. She had to give up sailing the ocean blue and find employment on land. She found a good job with the same company who restricted her to shore duty. She is the same one who almost two years ago at Christmas time read the Gospel of John we gave her and watched the story of Jesus on DVD.

HOW'S THIS FOR VARIETY?

The **M/V Svendborg Maersk** was in port and we were able to serve them. The Seafarers' Center likes to know what nationalities make up a ship's crew, so I ask. Usually, it is made up of one, two, or sometimes three nationalities. Often the different countries are from the same continent. When I asked about this ship, I was told crew members were from Ukraine, Romania, Denmark, India, Philippines and Poland. How would you like to be at sea, day after day,

with seventeen others from such diverse cultures and languages? That challenge in addition to the usual ones seafarers face!

Well, probably I would spend a lot of time seeking God for help! I told one man from Poland that we had God's word in each of those languages. He didn't seem at all interested until I actually showed him the Bible in Polish. He read just exactly what it was and said, yes, he would like it. I then offered him (for the whole ship) the "Jesus" DVD that had several languages available on it, including five of the ones spoken on his ship, plus another "Jesus" DVD in several languages of India.

This same man told me his son was part of this same crew, something very rare. "May both of them find God to be abundantly available for help." (Ps. 46:1) In His word!

Sue Bauer

SAD SEAFARER SAGA

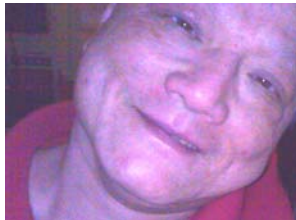
Captain Liu W. J. came to Tacoma every 35 days on the *Ever Gentle*. He did not believe in Jesus personally, nor God necessarily. However, little by little on each visit to Tacoma, we continued to be friendly and give reading material in Chinese so that he could learn more and more about Jesus.

More importantly, one of the crew on the ship did believe in Jesus, though silently. We supplied her with books in Chinese to help her grow in her faith and be bold. We also gave her personal encouragement and prayers for her to share her faith.

On the bridge of the ship, while sailing across the ocean, she began to have discussions with the Captain about the Bible.

The ship stopped coming to Tacoma.

Last week a former crew member of the *Ever Gentle* asked me, "Did you hear what happened to Captain Liu? He was sailing in Asia and had a heart attack. He died on the ship." What a shock!



We never know when it will be the last time we see a seafarer. Pray for us that we serving at Tacoma Seafarers' Center will take every opportunity to get the gospel into the hands of the seafarers while we do have time (time ever so short) with them, and before they stop sailing to our port, or stop life altogether.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Fellow Christians,

Summer has come and gone and now is the time that we start preparing for the upcoming Christmas season, which is not to far away. The major concern for us from a preparation standpoint is seeking partners in preparing Christmas boxes for the seafarers. Last year was the first year we have had to struggle to come up with enough boxes for all the visiting seafarers. Our Tacoma Seafarers' Center staff and volunteers dug deep to make up for the short fall. Would you all please start thinking about getting family, friends and congregational members together in preparation for this year?

We have boxes and letters for these boxes as well as instructions at our satellite center at 1118 Port of Tacoma Road. You may call with questions to 253-272-0716.

The seafarers look forward to these gifts, as they are so far away from home. Some of them are here for the first time and the Christmas box may be their first time hearing about the birth of Jesus, our Savior and theirs. We have a very unique opportunity to witness to the world, as the world comes to us through the Port of Tacoma. We are truly a global mission!

H. Gene Lawrence
Executive Director

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

YOUR PRAYERS and FINANCIAL SUPPORT

This summer was unusually expensive. We had several major repair bills on our vans. As I previously mentioned, we had a major water leak that was expensive to repair. Our Chapel got a much needed facelift. Our main building needs a paint job next spring/summer. The main building is much larger, which will be quite expensive to repair. Our finances show that our financial support is not meeting our needs. Keep us in your prayers as we do God's work. I have faith that He will be faithful.



God's richest blessings to all.

H. Gene Lawrence
Executive Director

NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – December 3, 2007

NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – October 23, 2007

Devotions: Terry Staeheli

Hostesses: Ladies of Zion

Snacks: Sue Bauer



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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