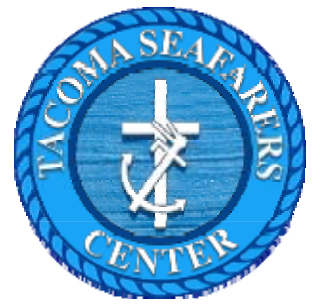




MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA



DECEMBER 2007

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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 77
NO. OF VISITS: 75
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 644



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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.

PRAY FOR JUMMEL MONTECILLO'S CHURCH

In a recent card from **Jummel Montecillo**, Cebu City, Philippines he asked that we fervently pray for his Christian Church. Jummel was a crew member on the **Verrazano Bridge**, that is now scheduled from the Far East to various ports on the East Coast of the United States. The **Verrazano Bridge** should be very familiar with all of us at the Center, after the wonderful lunch and fellowship given to us by Captain Aquino and crew members. That event happened on October 14, 2006 and was featured in the December 2006 Mooring Lines.

Jummel in his card wrote they have built a new church, but it is not fully finished as yet and all their church members are praying that it will be finished before December because it is their Thanksgiving Day.

His closing paragraph states "Our Church stands as a living testament to God's abounding Grace and Faithfulness. Please include our church in your prayers."

Submitted by Tom Harris



Verrazano Bridge Celebration – October 14, 2006

MANY SOULS ARE ABOARD THOSE SHIPS

My husband used to look up at the huge freighters that come to the Port of Tacoma and say, "there are many souls aboard those ships, but do they know the Lord? There is much work to be done right here in the Port of Tacoma. What a Mission Field right here at our door step!"

Last week several seafarers from Germany were at our Center. They were part of the crew of a Yang Ming ship. One very young cadet in training was seated alone at a table looking through some magazines. I went over to meet him and told him of my German Heritage and that all my grandparents had come from Germany. He seemed surprised and said he had never known anyone whose grandparents had come from Germany. I believe this was his first time in the USA. I then asked about his family and he promptly showed me a picture of his beautiful six month old daughter named Charlette whom he has seen only once. He then proceeded to tell me about the deep-deep love he has for this dear baby explaining that he has never known such love before. His eyes were filled with tears.

In continuing the conversation, I asked if he was a Christian. He answered with a very puzzled look on his face as though he hadn't heard of Christianity for a long time-never giving it a thought- and said no. I asked if his parents were Christians and he said they had been until the sudden death of his sister as a small child. After this devastation, they decided there couldn't be a God and instilled this in their children as well.

My first response was, "when I saw the picture of your beautiful baby daughter, all I could think of was, what a wonderful gift from God." His reply was, "we try to do our best in this world and whatever we make of our life is what we do ourselves. We are born, we live, and we die and that's all there is."

Of course I was very saddened by what I had just experienced and couldn't pursue this any longer for the moment.

In the meantime I am putting together certain Bible passages that I will place inside of a part of the Bible with just the four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I pray I will meet him again soon and ask if he would just read it and let me know what he thinks regarding it. Please pray with us for the lost souls of this precious young man, his wife, and baby daughter.

Submitted by Donna Eckhoff

IT WAS A JOYOUS REUNION

On a Monday afternoon several weeks ago, a visitor of Ukrainian descent entered the front door of our Center with a laptop computer and a small bag. After greeting him, we found he had flown here from New York where he now lives and has established a business for himself.

He came to meet a dear friend of his from the Ukraine. They had gone through all of their schooling together in their homeland and had not seen each other for many years. He learned that his friend was now a seafarer on one of the Yang Ming ships and would be in Tacoma on this day. His friend's work shift didn't end until 6:30 pm, but he waited patiently at our Center until that time, watching a DVD in his language and using his laptop.

Shortly after the 6:30 pm hour arrived, I walked his long lost friend with two of his shipmates. There were great big hugs exchanged followed with tears of joy. They were extremely happy! Since their time together was limited, our driver took them to Johnny's Dock Restaurant downtown where they enjoyed a lovely dinner together before parting again - one by ship, the other by plane.

I'm certain this reunion did much to lift the spirits of the seafarer especially. Long time friends are cherished indeed. We were all happy that our doors were open to assist this man from New York and make this reunion more enjoyable.

Submitted by Donna Eckhoff

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

Rev. Ray Eckhoff

Needed Clothing for Seafarers:
 Men's used clothing in good condition. Especially needed are casual jackets, jeans, wash slacks, tee shirts, and sweatshirts.



TURKEY and THANKSGIVING

What does Thanksgiving and Turkey have in Common?

That's right we had a ship (**M/V Albanda**) with crew from Turkey here on Thanksgiving Day. One man said he was from Izmir and gave me the old name (Bible name) of Smyrna. In our Turkish New Testament, I looked up Rev.2:8-11 for him to read about Izmir. This is what he read in Turkish, "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again...Be faithful even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."

The day after Thanksgiving Tom and Roy took Christmas gifts to this Muslim crew. Before going to the ship, we wondered, "Would these Muslims receive gifts (wrapped by the good members of Peninsula Baptist Church, Gig Harbor) which are given in honor of Jesus Christ?" Here is what happened---

Before boarding the vessel, Roy and I met a young officer of the ship at the gangway and we explained that friends of the Tacoma Seafarer's Center would like to give these Christmas gifts to all of the crew members. This young officer was very friendly and expressed gratitude for the gifts. We were invited on board, served refreshments and able to converse with some of the crew members. With camera in hand, I took pictures of the crew and they certainly seemed to enjoy the fellowship during the brief time we were on the ship.

We will never be certain if these crew members unwrapped their gifts while we were on board or if they will wait for Christmas Day. We have met Christian crew members from Turkey on previous visits. God works in mysterious ways and who knows, perhaps this young officer that accepted the gifts was a Christian.

Submitted by Paul Peterson, Tom Harris and Roy Henderson

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING

Thanksgiving has already come and gone but to all of our supporters...thank you for everything.

Sometimes people say, "Thanks for everything.", as a polite way to say, "Bye and thanks." But, a couple weeks ago there was

something special about the way two different seafarers on two different occasions said, "Thank you for everything" which caught my attention.

The first, a Filipino, was leaving the Center to walk back to his ship. He turned and said, "Thank you for everything."; not once but twice. Second, a seafarer from Taiwan got out of the van to go back to his ship after shopping. He turned and said, "Thank you for everything."; not once but twice.



Usually people would use the shortened form of "thank you"; "thanks", since it is easier. And it's usually "Thank you very much" instead of "Thank you for everything." Maybe that is what caught my ear, or it was the intonation and emphasis on "everything" I wondered, "What did they mean by "everything"?"



Did they mean just the free transport to shopping? Or, just the use of the phones? Or, just the use of the computers to send home email? Or, just the relaxing time to watch TV? Or, was it that we shared with them about Jesus? Or, that we explained the way of

salvation to their friends while driving down the road? Or, that we had free Bibles available in their language? Or, that we just listened to them? My guess is that it was all the above, because we did all the above for those men.



So once again, thank you to all of you our supporters for everything to make this ministry possible. Thank you for your time, your talents, your treasures and your talking to the Lord for us.

Submitted by Paul Peterson



 NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – **DECEMBER 3, 2007**
 NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **NO DECEMBER MEETING**



GOD'S BLESSINGS AS WE REMEMBER THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR – CHRIST JESUS

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