



# MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

JULY 2008

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## WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 92  
NO. OF VISITS: 81  
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 717



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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.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I am so happy to see that the Lord has blessed us with nice weather here in Tacoma, as I write this article. Sunshine makes me feel good. But there is a **SON Shine** that is so much better. May that **Son Shine** fill your hearts with joy as we serve our Glorious Lord!

I would like to thank all of our supporters who have so faithfully given of their financial and prayer support over these many years. Some have been called to their Heavenly home, but it seems that the Lord sends somebody to fill the gap. However, as time goes on, the costs in finances and labor increase at an uneven rate. We are in need of more volunteers so as to help ease the work load. If anyone has wanted to be involved in a Global mission opportunity, you have a very unique opportunity right here in the Port of Tacoma. Please call and come see how our ministry works. The Lord may place a call on your heart to serve.

I now I have to mention something that I always strive to avoid. I must mention our financial situation. I know most folks do not like to hear such things, but on some occasions it is necessary. I will keep it brief! As of this date, 23 June 2008, we are over \$20,000.00 dollars behind last year's giving for the same time period. Wages have been cut to help keep the gas in the vehicles. All costs have gone up for us, just as I am confident that that is the case for all of you too. I ask that you pray for our situation and tell others about our ministry that may not know about us.

In Service to Christ Jesus,  
Deacon H. Gene Lawrence  
Executive Director  
Tacoma Seafarers' Center

## HE KNEW A MOTHER WOULD UNDERSTAND

Last Sunday as I came to the Seafarers' Center there were three Seafarers relaxing and visiting in their native language (Tagalog) while enjoying cookies. As I approached them at the table they switched languages and told me they missed seeing me at their last voyage here, but were told that I was home ill.

After visiting for a few minutes, one Seaman called me into the phone room asking about the free clothing hanging there. But more intently, he wanted me to know that after leaving Tacoma he was going to Hong Kong and from there home to the Philippines. Before I could express my joy to him for being able to go home, his words to me were, "my father is dying from colon cancer and he has asked me to just let him die because all his medical care, including chemotherapy and radiation, is private pay. I send home all my income, but it still isn't enough. I can't let him die because of it." He was so distraught and felt so helpless.

After more conversation, I told him I would be praying for his father and also for him and followed with a much needed hug. Seafarers hesitate to express their feelings to each other. This is why we need to be their family to fill in some gaps while they are away from home.

It was obvious that even being able to talk with someone lifted his burden a little. I was glad that Paul needed my help that day.

Submitted by Donna Eckhoff

## TRAGIC TYPHOON CAPSIZED PRINCESS

The Filipino ferry boat "**Princess of the Stars**" turned up side down during a terrible typhoon.

Does the statistic of 800 missing mean anything to you? It may not mean anything to you because it is so far away. Your heart may be indifferent and without compassion because it's only numbers of people you never knew. Or do you have a genuine concern and pray for them?

For me, I just block off sad news and think of something different. But, not after I met Noelito this morning on board a ship in Tacoma. Noelito said, "My sister and cousin work on board the **Princess of the Stars**. I have not heard any news if they survived or not. They are missing." Suddenly an event thousands of miles away was brought to me face to face. The pain and anxiety on Noel's face of not knowing about his loved ones and not being able to do anything is a real heartache. Always pray for the victims and the survivors and their families for the Lord's presence to be with them. Following is one news article and photos.

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

Rev. Ray Eckhoff

## PITIFUL PLIGHT OF POOR SEAFARERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

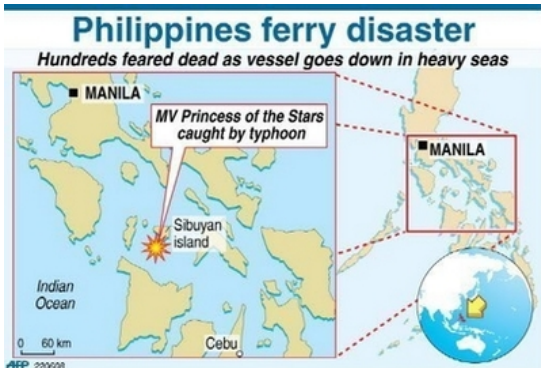
Seafarers are a people who are often helpless to help their suffering families. A multitude of hearts bleed with pain when work and distance and finances keep them from helping their loved ones.

SIBUYAN ISLAND, Philippines - Rescuers held little hope on Monday of finding some 800 people missing from a capsized ferry in the Philippines as large swells prevented divers from drilling holes into the doomed vessel.

Many passengers were feared trapped inside the **Princess of the Stars** after a handful of survivors said people were still onboard when the ship sank off the central island of Sibuyan in waves as big as houses during Saturday's typhoon.

The ship is resting upside down with the tip of its bow above water and its stern resting on the bottom of the sea, easily visible from shore. The coast guard said divers would cut open the 23,824 tonne vessel on Tuesday.

Submitted by Paul Peterson



**Our Partners in the Philippines**

We partner with a mission in the Philippines to follow-up on each other's seafaring contacts. The Seamen's Christian Friend Society in Manila will follow up any contacts we send them. They also have established a Sunday worship time and fellowship for any seafarers on vacation and their families which they call Seamen for Christ Fellowship.



The ministry in **Bacolod**, Philippines is led by Brother Abraham and here are some of his reports.

**Family Visitation:**

We visited the family of Capt. Orlando Dalipe who is suffering bone cancer now in stage 4. Pray for him for strength, faith and courage to face the situation. Also his wife Belen to accept God's will in their life.

Visited the family of Oiler Chua. His family is requesting to pray for the couple's marital problem. He is a Christian but a backslider.

2nd cook Dan Valles is always visiting SCFS Bacolod office. He is now having his business car transport services. He is asking for prayer.

Visited the family of Olr Eliseo Victorio. Hope the home Bible study will continue even if he will join the vessel soon. His wife Maricar and children are now regularly attending church service.

Visited regularly the wife and children of 2nd Mate Nathaniel Young who is now onboard. He is always calling to follow up his family.

In **Iloilo**, Philippines Brother George reports on his family visitations.

**Family Visitation:**

Bro Leonardo Jurada and his son is now back in our church after a lot of visitation and Bible study. He had been away from the church for 20 years.

Matt Cortezano – a strong believer but had first time Bible study in his home with his wife, mother and sister whose husband is also a seaman.

Arnel and Sherly Hampak – we studied God's word together with some members of the family.

Mercedita Cubar – She and her husband together with 5 members of family gathered together for discipleship.

Quirico and Mar Ann Perucho – both of them accepted the Lord as their Savior and are being followed up.

Anthony and Marilou Sionosa are being followed up. Praise God for their desire to know more God's Word.

Submitted by Paul Peterson



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 NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – **September 15, 2008**  
 NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **August 26, 2008**  
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