



MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

AUGUST 2008

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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 80
NO. OF VISITS: 78
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 716



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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:

Port Expansion means we must move!

We have been blessed with our location at 1225 Alexander Ave for almost 30 years. The Port of Tacoma owns the land and has been very generous and gracious regarding our lease. However, times are changing and the Port is expanding and building, which means that they must ask us to vacate the property by December 2009. We own the building due to two generous building grants from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). The building is built on a concrete slab which means any attempt to move the building will be extremely difficult and costly. It may not be a feasible option.

The Port Officials are trying to find an alternate site for us, but it will be approximately 3 weeks before the plans they have for the maritime industry businesses located in the Port are finalized. At that time we will be able to more readily see if there are indeed any viable options for us. We need to be close to the water where the berthing areas are for the ships so that the ships crews can have walking access to our ministry. Our partner at 1225 Alexander, MGL/Multilingual South Asian Ministry, which is who we get most of our bibles in foreign languages from, does not have to be so located. They too are being put in the position of relocating, but they can relocate to most anywhere they can find reasonable accommodations. They are praying for assistance in this matter as we are. Our optimal situation would be to continue working in close proximity, if not in the same building with them. More information will be forthcoming in subsequent issues of the Mooring Lines as we learn more.

I would like everyone to know that we really are trusting in the Lord to provide for us. We know that God is in control and that this challenge needs to be looked at as a challenge that we have been blessed with. How we face this challenge is important in our continued walk with Jesus. Even though as humans we sometimes find it hard to understand why we would be put in a position to walk away from a building that would cost almost a half a million dollars to replace, we must continue to praise God for His grace. He is faithful and will provide the means, through His people, to meet the needs of this move.

Please keep us in your prayers.

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



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

Rev. Ray Eckhoff

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT JESUS?

"What do you think about Jesus?" I asked the Captain as we sipped on some green tea, after a nice Chinese lunch. If you ask that question to someone, listen for their answer. Then you will know what they need to know about Jesus. Then start at that point and tell them some more of what they need to know about Jesus.

The Captain said, "I think he is good. We should all be good like him and do good for people. When I go back home, I try to be good to people who need help. I learned from you to be good to people."

I appreciate the Captain's answer because for one it shows that we at the seafarer mission are seen as good people helping people who need help. This is what Jesus did. So, we are reflecting Jesus' life to the seafarers.

However, the Captain also needs to know more of the story of Jesus. Yes, Jesus is good, but also He is our Savior and the one who will take us safely to our home port. So, I asked him if he had seen the life of Jesus on DVD. I thought I had given to him before but he said, "I don't have one." I just happened to have one in my bag and offered it to the Captain which he gladly accepted and now he can learn the story of Jesus in Chinese and think more about Jesus.

Pray that his thinking will lead him to believing in Jesus, not just as a good person, but as a Savior for him.

Submitted by Paul Peterson

THE SIGN READS: FREE COINS - John 3:16

On a recent Monday afternoon as I arrive at the Seafarers' Center, Betty introduced me to a very young seafarer who was at Sea for the first time and has just joined the Yang Ming shipping line. His home is in Myanmar (Burma).

After a brief visit he walked over to the guest book table where we have imitation silver dollars in many languages which have John 3:16 printed out on one side and on the reverse side is printed, "WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?" He picked up one in his own language, read it, and kept it in his hand. I walked over to him and asked, "Oh, are you a Christian?" His answer was, "NO, I'M A BUDDHST, BUT MY FRIEND ABOARD THE SHIP HAS BEEN TELLING ME ABOUT JESUS AND I'M INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE".

Instantly, my mind raced back to the front seat of my car to a booklet entitled, 'Ultimate Questions' given to me by my granddaughter's husband several months ago, but today was the day I remembered to bring it to place an order in many languages for Seafarers. It explains who God is and ends with His plan for our salvation through Jesus. It also has beautiful illustrations!

I told the young man about the booklet and asked if he would like to read it. His answer was a firm "yes, I would enjoy that". I then brought it in from my car and pointed out some things to him. He reads perfect English so that wasn't a problem. He responded with, "thank you very much", with a big smile.

He then told me he had to go back to the ship for his work shift and he probably would not ever be coming back to Tacoma because his ship is changing its route to Oakland and Los Angeles. Therefore, I will most likely never see him again, but the Lord guided me to bring this booklet on this very day even though I thought is was only to place an order.

PICTURE THIS: Aboard ship all day and night for nearly a year at a time with 24 men from many countries, languages, and religions (Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Atheist, etc. I pray for God's blessing on this Christian man aboard the **Yang Ming** ship who told this young Buddhist about Jesus and I'm almost certain he will continue to do so. We pray for the Holy Spirit to use these means to open his heart to the saving Gospel.

Submitted by Donna Eckhoff

BECOME PART OF THE CREW - HOW DO YOU KNOW?

Tacoma Seafarers' Center volunteers often bond with the crew and become a part of that ship's community and welcomed as family; even in just one or two visits.

There is a formality when visitors come on board a ship. They are first met by a watchman, then one shows

the photo ID badge, then sign in a guest register, then you are given a *visitor's badge*, then you may be escorted onto the ship.

One ship manned with Chinese crew has been here several times. But, this was the first time in 3 or 4 months. I climbed the gangway and was greeted with smiles. Those on watch came in with me all the way to the crew's mess. I guess they were too excited to see someone from the Seafarers' Center because they forgot to look at my photo ID, and they forgot to sign me in and they forgot to give a *visitor's badge*.

After we discussed what we could do for them, the Captain invited me to stay for lunch. Eating together is another sign that we have bonded with our foreign friends.

How do we know when we have become accepted not as an outsider, but as a part of the crew? When they forget about all the protocol and when we eat together.

Another perspective of this friendship is "trust". All the above are signs that the seafarers see us as trustworthy. All that we say and do is accepted as being truthful. Trust is extremely important to have because it is the open door for us to tell them the truth about Jesus. Then all the literature we give them, or all that we say about Jesus they will accept as trustworthy and truthful.

Submitted by Paul Peterson

THE ISLANDS OF KIRIBATI - WHERE IN THE WORLD?

I thought I knew my Geography until I met several crew members from Kiribati while transporting them to the Mall and the Tacoma Seafarers' Center. I had to ask where are the Kiribati Islands and the crew explained in detail where their homeland was located. I was curious when I arrived back at the Center and looked at our World Map on the wall. Sure enough the islands straddle the Equator Southwest of the Hawaiian Islands and North of American Samoa. Later while looking on the internet, I found the **Republic of Kiribati** consists of 32 atolls and one raised coral reef. Tarawa is the Capital City. Lest we forget, the Battle of Tarawa (World War II) was a major victory in the Pacific Ocean by U.S. Forces from November 20th to November 23, 1943.

This was the first visit by the crew to the United States and they took full advantage of our internet to contact family members. It was a pleasure on my part in meeting these crew members and as usual I learn something new about this World we live in.

Submitted by Tom Harris



NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – **September 15, 2008**

NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **August 26, 2008**

Devotions: **Judy Mandt**

Hostess: **Potluck**

Cookies/Snacks: **Judy Mandt**



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