



# MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

OCTOBER 2008

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Printed Monthly by The Tacoma Seafarers' Center

## WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 80  
NO. OF VISITS: 77  
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 549



Edited By: Deacon Gene Lawrence  
Managing Editor: Lorraine Stargel

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
John Thurber, President  
Roger Lawrence, Treasurer  
Donna Eckhoff  
Doug Wolford  
Herb Bauer  
Ed Egan

### 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.

## WELCOME ABOARD

I would like to welcome **Caroline Rimbach** as a serving volunteer at the Tacoma Seafarers' Center. Her Father was a LCMS Pastor who has already been called to Glory. Caroline is retired after serving for many years as an assistant to John Spellman, when he was Governor of Washington and in his private Law practice. Caroline said that when she was looking for a place to serve the Lord, she was looking for something different. I think she has found her niche.

Our Store manager, Herb Bauer, was looking for someone to learn the Store manager responsibilities that could fill in during any of his absences. I told him that I had already done that and then he went and married her, so if I found someone else he could not make them a family member and take them all on vacation with him. He laughed and promised me that he wouldn't. In all seriousness though, we have indeed found someone to learn the duties of the Store manager. That person is Caroline. Herb and Sue Bauer said that Caroline is doing a great job.

Caroline seems to be very excited about her opportunity to serve at the Tacoma Seafarers' Center. She can be seen eagerly interacting with and serving the needs of the seafarers who come into the Center. She sees things that need to be done and sets about to take care of these things. She has also made some helpful suggestions to Herb regarding inventory procedures. Everyone I have talked with has had good things to say about Caroline. She is one of the blessings that our Lord has bestowed upon us. Thank you God for your Blessings. We pray that Caroline will serve with us for a long time.

Submitted by H. Gene Lawrence

## A BROKEN WATCH, A LOVING HEART

I was able to leave the Center early on this day and as I picked up my purse to leave, a Filipino Seafarer came over to where Paul and I were standing. He had purchased a watch at the Tacoma Mall earlier in the day and found it wasn't running. Paul checked it out and couldn't find the problem, so the man was disappointed, of course. His ship was sailing at 3:00 AM the next morning.

I told him I was just leaving and would be happy to take him back to the Mall to exchange the watch. He gladly accepted the offer and did get it exchanged.

On the way back to the Center, he was excited to tell me that he would be going home for Christmas, which is always wonderful news! Our conversation continued as follows:

**Me:** "How does your family celebrate Christmas?"

**Him:** "I like to go to the ten masses held before Christmas, but the last time I was home I was only there in time to go to eight. On Christmas Day we go to our grandparents house in the country and have dinner."

**Me:** "Are your brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and mom and dad all able to be there?"

**Him:** "No, Ma'am, my father left my mom and us six children when my youngest brother was only 18 months old. He went to Japan with another woman and we haven't seen him since. It's been very hard on my mom. That's why I went to Sea at age 17 to support our family."

**Me:** "Are you the oldest?"

**Him:** "No, Ma'am, I'm the 3rd child. Right now I'm paying for college for my two brothers and one sister. The one brother and sister will complete college in March."

**Me:** "Oh, that will be a lot easier for you then, financially."

**Him:** "No, Ma'am, I still have two younger ones to put through college. I want them all to be able to support themselves without having to go to Sea. IT'S VERY HARD, MA'AM!"

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

*Rev. Ray Eckhoff*

**Me:** "God has blessed you, at your young age, with much love and commitment to your mom and siblings to keep them strong and secure. He has chosen you to take your father's place and you did not let Him down. Stay close to the Lord and depend on Him daily. I will also be praying for you for strength to do so."

**Him:** "Yes, I do depend on God always. Without Him I wouldn't make it in life"

By this time we were back at the Center, we both had tears in our eyes (concentrating on the responsibility he is constantly bearing). I got out of the car with him, gave him a hug, and encouraged him to stay steadfast.

**His response:** "Yes, Ma'am, thank you very much."

Submitted by Donna Eckhoff

### THEY'RE HERE – CHRISTMAS BOXES ARE IN

It is that time of year when we at the Tacoma Seafarers' Center start preparing to celebrate our savior Jesus Christ's birthday. We have the empty boxes for you to pick up for your Church or Organization to prepare for the seafarers' gifts. Of course, you may pick up boxes for your family to prepare for the seafarers also. We start distributing the completed Christmas boxes to the ships that arrive or are in Port the day after Thanksgiving.

Please come get your boxes early so that we can be sure to have the boxes ready and at our satellite center the day after Thanksgiving. We really appreciate your support in this wonderful endeavor. For some seafarers, this is the first time they come to know what Christmas is all about.



In Christ's Love,  
H. Gene Lawrence

### A GREAT COMMISSION CAPTAIN

What is a Great Commission Christian? A Great Commission Christian is one who keeps their eyes open for those around them who have a spiritual need. And, secondly after finding that needed one has a compassionate heart to tell them or give them something about the good news of Jesus.

Ten thousand miles away from Tacoma, we received an email from a Captain whose ship was in Colombo, Sri Lanka. While in port, the Captain visiting some small fishing vessels and found some Chinese and Taiwanese in very poor living conditions. He requested, "Can you supply me with 3 Chinese Bibles and 3 Taiwanese Bibles for some poor fishermen I met in Colombo, Sri Lanka? After Tacoma we will return to Colombo and I will give to them."



This Captain is a **Great Commission Christian** because he has a heart full of compassion for everyone to know Jesus Christ. We did supply him with

Bibles, and DVDs and CDs for him to deliver across the globe.

Thank you for your support so that we could extend our ministry to seafarers and through seafarers to the pockets of the world where no one is reaching. Pray that we all can have a greater commitment to the greatest commandments (love God and love others) so that we can be on the Great Commission.

Submitted by Paul Peterson

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NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – **October 13, 2008**

NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **October 28, 2008**

Devotions: **Jeannette Burton**

Hostess: **Catholic Daughters #977**

Cookies/Snacks: **Catholic Daughters Assn.**

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