



MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

November 2008

Phone: 253-272-0716
E-Mail: center@tacomaseafarers.org
Web: http://www.tacomaseafarers.org



Printed Monthly by The Tacoma Seafarers' Center

WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 72
NO. OF VISITS: 70
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 700



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.

Christmas Boxes

As of this writing, we still have over **700 boxes** that need to be picked up and filled. We need to have the boxes back by Thanksgiving. The seafarers so look forward to these gifts. They are so far from home during the Christmas season. We have a unique opportunity to reach out in Christian love to these seafarers, some of whom have never celebrated Christmas or have known what Christmas really means.



Please come to our satellite center at **1118 Port of Tacoma Rd** and pick up some boxes soon.



Praise be to God the Father for His Wondrous Love,

Deacon H. Gene Lawrence
Executive Director

WHY DO YOU DO THIS FOR US?

I was asked this question by a ship's Captain one time. This question was regarding our giving service to the seafarers at no charge. It was also in regards to the earlier comment by me, to him, about our volunteers giving of their time with out pay. I explained to him that our Savior, Jesus Christ, had commanded us to love one another as He had/has loved us. I told the Captain that Jesus had also commanded us to disciple the nations. I explained that God has placed a "call" upon our hearts to serve Him. Our service to Him is to show the love of Jesus as we serve the seafarers.

Since Jesus has shown us His unconditional love to us, even unto death, then our showing Jesus love by serving the seafarers needs, was the least we could do. Jesus also showed us an example of servanthood as He washed His Disciples feet. Therefore, as we are a holistic ministry that serves the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the seafarer, we will provide whatever service to the seafarer that is necessary, whether it be a trip to the doctor's office, the post office or the supermarket for large quantities of food. When we do this we show them that we care, so when we offer them the Gospel message of Jesus, they will more likely receive our message as from a friend.

Submitted by H. Gene Lawrence

INVISIBLE SEAFARERS

Many ports around the world have seafarer ministries which are reaching out to the world. One of these ministries is the International Sailor Society. In their publication "Chart & Compass" there is a good explanation of the invisibility of seafarers.

"As an inter-denominational Christian charity, the Sailors' Society has been providing faith-based support for seafarers visiting ports in the UK and overseas for the past 190 years. Among the varied cargoes reaching our shores in 1818 was coffee from Brazil, which was then and remains today, the world's principal exporter, producing 40 percent of total world output. It's true; there is an awful lot of coffee in Brazil! It is estimated that 1,400 million cups of coffee are drunk worldwide every day in our coffee bar culture."

Remember, it is the millions of seafarers that ensure we have a cup of coffee. We don't see them but we smell the coffee that they brought to our country. We need this invisible workforce. The majority of seafarers will be away from their families for up to 9 months each year transporting the things we now wear, eat and drink. They arrive in our ports as strangers, invisible to those who depend upon them. Discharge their cargo and disappear over the horizon as quietly as they came.



It is our ministry to do everything possible to meet the seafarers expressed needs like shopping, telephones, computers for email. And we give these invisible seafarers the invisible

need of the gospel of Jesus. Pray that we can develop ministries in more ports around the world to be a blessing to the invisible seafarers who brought your coffee.

Submitted by Paul Peterson

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

Rev. Ray Eckhoff

YOU ARE THE MAN! & MEN STILL CRY

On a recent Wednesday, I was on duty to drive the vans to pick up seafarers when needed. A note on the board asked for a pickup at the Evergreen ship, *Ever Urban*, to be made at 12:30. I picked up a crew of six men and took them to the Mall and Costco. Their return trip at 3:30 included a short stop at the Center for Pastor Paul to meet and greet the men.

During our return, the Chief Officer inquired as to my age and reason for working at the Center. I had a lot to share with him in a short time. Interestingly after leaving the Center for the ship, one of the Philippine men sitting directly behind me said to me, "You are the man." I immediately remembered that same line from three years back while selling phone cards on a different ship.

Yes, three years ago our family prepared twenty-five Christmas boxes including a Christmas card with a picture of our family. It was five months later, I was asked to go to over to a ship and distribute needed phone cards. Suddenly a seaman comes up to me and leaves hurriedly for his cabin. He brings back a Christmas photo of my family and mentions the words to me "You are the Man." He informed me how much the crew enjoyed their gifts, but more than that, he thanked the Center, our family, and said he prays to God.

Fast forward to last week, this seaman is now working for a new shipping line. He has taken the picture home to the Philippines and it is placed in his family's living room. He restates "You are the man, my family and I think of your family, the Seamen's Center and pray to God all the time."

I tried to refrain from being overly emotional, but as soon as the six crew members left the van, I felt tears of joy and cried from feeling blessed. Yes, the Lord does answer us in many ways, but on a day when the ship wasn't even due in port, I met this seaman again. Now he thanks the Center, especially

the shoebox Christmas gift, and says goodbye and I wish him God's Blessings.

P.S. How can there be any greater satisfaction especially under such unique circumstances after all this time. Yes, we are there for them.

Submitted by Ed Egan

LONGING FOR HOME

The Seafarer from India:

"My father died when I was only two years old. My mother was left alone to raise six children. When I was 16 years old, I went to Sea to support the family. Now I am 32 years and have already been at Sea for 16 years. I married three years ago. I wish so much to be home!"

The Seafarer from the Philippines:

"I have a wife and four children and am missing out on most of their growing up years. In my country, even public education is paid entirely by the family. I want my children to have a good education so they can possibly go to New Zealand to get a good job and not have to go to Sea. I so wish I could be home with them!"

The Seafarer from the Ukraine:(very young):

"This is my first trip at Sea and I can't stay aboard ship much longer. The crew is being so abused by the officers! We are not getting paid and are having to eat left over food which is sometimes rotten. I have called ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) who will board our ship in Vancouver, BC to help settle this matter. I don't want to stay at Sea! I want very much to be home!!

Seafarer from the Philippines:

He couldn't afford a Lap Top like so many of the men are getting, but he was all smiles after calling home. "I have a new baby girl at home only 7 weeks old", he told me. "Have you seen her?" I asked. "No, he answered, but I just heard her cry!! I wish I could be home."

Submitted by Donna Eckhoff



NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING –

NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **November 25, 2008**

Devotions: **Delphine Tucker**

Cookies/Snacks: **St. Patrick's**

Hostess: **St. Patrick's**



TACOMA SEAMENS' CENTER
1225 EAST ALEXANDER AVE.
TACOMA, WA 98421

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TACOMA, WA
PERMIT NO. 229