



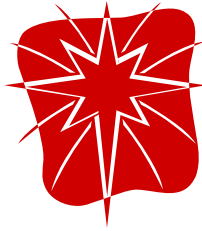
MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

December 2008

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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT:	82
NO. OF VISITS:	75
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY:	609



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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.

Christmas Boxes

By the time you read this we will have celebrated Thanksgiving to our Lord for His bounty He has bestowed upon us. We will also have started to give out the Christmas boxes to our friends, the seafarers. As of this writing we will have approximately 100 boxes that need to be picked up, filled and returned to the Center. We only have about 400 boxes brought back to us as of this date. I cannot emphasize enough how important that we receive the filled boxes back as soon possible. We do not want to have to tell a seafarer that we do not have the boxes back yet. By the time the seafarer would return it would be into January, 2009. Thank you so much for all that you do.



May God bless you as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus Christ's, our Savior's, birth.

Merry Christmas to all, from the staff and volunteers of the Tacoma Seafarers' Center.

TERRIFIC TIMING FOR AN UNTOUCHED PEOPLE

On a Saturday a seminar on sharing with seafarers supplied information about Maldivian seafarers. The Maldives are a group of tropical islands formed on a coral reef south of Sri Lanka. The people living on the islands are all Muslims. Any kind of Christian witness or literature is forbidden in the Maldives.

The gospels of Luke and Acts have just been translated into the language of the Maldivians called Dhivehi. The Jesus DVD has also just been completed in Dhivehi.

The lecturer said, "Maldivian seafarers can often be found on Olendorff ships." A light bulb went on in my head. I remember seeing that name on the ship's report list as being in the Port of Tacoma.

I raced back seventy miles per hour to arrive just 5 minutes before closing the Seafarers' Center at 7:00 pm. Two minutes later 4 Filipino seafarers walked in. They came by taxi.

"What ship are you from?" They replied, "Maria Olendorff".

"Do you have any Maldivian seafarers on board?"

"Yes, we have two."

We let them stay for an hour and make phone calls and email home. Then I gave them our recently acquired gospels of Luke and Jesus DVD and broadcasting CDs from FEBA. I asked, "Can you give these to the two crew?"

It is in their language." They said, "Yes. They will like it because they just bought computers and can play it on their computers."



These scriptures may be forbidden in the country, but in the Port of Tacoma, they are gladly received. Thank the Lord for the need in the world for ships and seafarers so that they can go to places in the world to receive freely the Word of God.

Furthermore, we are grateful for the Lord's terrific timing, that on the same day the resources were received, He provided the delivery boys in perfect timing to arrive at the center and to take the resources to the place where hearts can be changed.

Submitted by Paul Peterson

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

Rev. Ray Eckhoff

WE ARE LISTENING!

In the September 2008 Mooring Lines, my wife Barbara wrote an article (**Slow down & Listen**) on a new friend we met from the People's Republic of China by the name of Jia Guo-Bin. Since then we have met him each time the Y/M **ASIA** has berthed and have become acquainted with two of his friends, Lu Jing-Cui and Wang Liang-Ping. As Barbara quoted Ezekiel 34:26 - "there have been showers of blessings".

We have spent as much time as possible with these three inquisitive young men from the People's Republic of China and have been blessed with their presence. Family is very important to the People of China and Barbara is now known as "Auntie Barbara". That is certainly an honor to her and we are very appreciative they consider us akin to their families.

During their last visit (11/8-9) we had the opportunity to take them on the link rail, the area around **Chihuly Glass**, across the Narrows Bridge and ending up at a Pizza Parlor in Tacoma. Two of our new friends had never tasted Pizza

before and two out of the three probably will not repeat having that tasty treat that we seem to enjoy.



There is always a departure and saying safe voyage and good-by until we meet again. Barbara gave Jia , a video of **The Bible**, narrated by James Earl Jones. Only time will tell what God has in mind for this friendship, but I see Blessings all around.

Submitted by Tom Harris

FAREWELL FRIENDS, GOD BE WITH YOU!

It was Monday the 3rd of November, my day to volunteer at the Tacoma Seafarers' Center. Upon arriving at 3:00 PM, I had Seafarers waiting at the Center for me to take them out to the Tacoma Mall. Some days it's extremely busy and some days very slow (rarely). This day was on the slow side for once. Anyway, about 5:00 PM we had a young Seafarer named Anthony Malcampo, the Chief Steward, who came into the Center from the ship, **HYUNDAI NATIONAL**. He set up his laptop to e-mail his family and do other computer work as well.



Anthony was very friendly and open to us at the Center and shared a very interesting story about his ship.

The **HYUNDAI NATIONAL** was built in 2000 by a Korean shipyard and originally owned by the Korean Co., Hyundai. The ship is now owned by a German Company.

The ship is a container ship transporting goods from Asia to North America. It has a crew of 24 including the Captain.

The story that Anthony was telling us was that his ship is changing the entire crew and they will soon be leaving for home in the Philippines and the Ukraine. The crew will be home in time to enjoy Christmas with their families.

Anthony and his shipmates have been sailing together for a little over three years and have made some deep relationships with each other over this time. Working together and spending off-time together will make it difficult when the time comes to depart. The shipmates will be joining other ships after Christmas and may never see each other again.

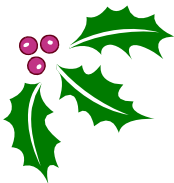
So, Anthony's solution to a sad ending was to video tape the ship from top to bottom, inside and out. He captured on film the enjoyment and camaraderie of the crew while working at their jobs and at play during their off-times together.

Anthony inserted the disk into his laptop and proceeded to show us the video he had made. We saw the Bridge, the galley, the lounges, the bunk rooms, and the engine rooms. The members of the crew worked together like the engine of a well run ship--from the re-painting of the ship's deck and railings, to the maintenance of the computer controlled engines, to the laundry room of the crew.

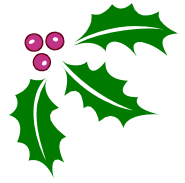
As Donna, Penny, Anthony, and I watched the video play out, we were all impressed at the efficiency of the crew working together, the cleanliness of the ship, and the smooth running of all the operations.

Anthony made this video to give to his other shipmates to remind them of the camaraderie and fellowship they enjoyed. Although they may never be all together again, they will always have these memories of their times with one another - which reminds me of our relationship with Jesus. God has given us His spoken word, the Bible, to remind us of our relationship and friendship with Him. Because of Jesus' dual nature, His divinity and His humanity, Jesus knows and understands our trials, temptations, joys, and our sorrows of losing our friends. He can and will comfort us in our time of loss. He is a friend that we will never lose.

Submitted by Terry Nelson



NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING –
NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **January 27, 2009**
Devotions: **Barbara Clark** Cookies/Snacks: **Immanuel Lutheran**
Hostess: **Gloria Dei Lutheran/Carol Bengelsdorf**



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

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