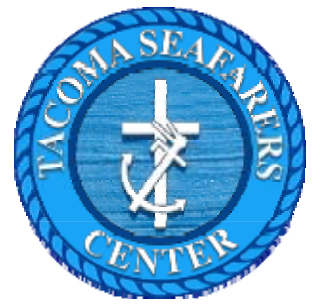




MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

APRIL 2009

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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 67
NO. OF VISITS: 64
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 562



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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.

WE WERE ALL SEEING DOUBLE ON A MONDAY NIGHT

It was early evening on a recent Monday. A group of approximately eight Seafarers from one of the **Hyundai** ships had walked over to the Center carrying backpacks which held their laptop computers. As they opened the front door, they greeted us with a smile, hung up their coats and began to line up their computers on both sides of the long table.

We love to glance over occasionally to appreciate the contentment on their faces as they communicate with their wives and children. Sometimes they invite us to come over to see the pictures on the screen of their families.

This group was made up of some Filipinos and two Ukrainians.

After some time had passed, Paul had picked up some crew from another ship and brought them through the back door. Among them was another Ukrainian Seafarer. Noticing the Ukrainian already sitting at the table, Paul escorted the 2nd one to the table to introduce the two of them. As they were enjoying visiting one another in their own language, Paul stood at the desk with a big grin on his face. He said to me, "look at them - they look like twins!" I, too, had already taken a 2nd and a 3rd look because I couldn't tell them apart, especially after they had moved about.

It was uncanny! They were of the same age group, had the exact hairline and style, wore the same glasses, and their smiles were just alike.

They had a great visit and when it was time to deliver them back to their respective ships, we hoped each would know which one they were and which ship to board.

Like I have said before, every day holds a new and different experience for us. Our hearts produce many smiles!

Submitted by Donna Eckhoff

TIC TAC TOE THREE IN A ROW

A Chinese Captain claimed to be a Christian. He has been to the Gulf Coast and met Christian Chaplains who helped encourage him. On this ship no crew had visas to come ashore; not even the Captain. But, the Captain was hungry for fellowship.

The Captain kept asking if there were any local Chinese speaking Christians who could come aboard and visit.

Three days in a row the Captain was blessed by believers who could speak his language.

The first day, a Chinese speaking Korean who used to live in China came to visit the Captain and had dinner on board together.

The second day, a local Chinese pastor visited a ship for the first time. He talked with the Captain for an hour and then we went down to the crew and shared good news with them.



The third day, four drove up from Portland, Oregon for four hours to share from the Bible with the Captain. They taught the Captain a song from Psalm 23. Then with the crew, they taught them a love song from 1 Corinthians 13.





One of these four, the Captain had met two years ago in Kunsan, Korea at a Chinese church. He kept her name card, and when I was on board the ship we called her on the seafarer center cell phone. After a long visit, they said they were too busy to come.

The Captain called again on another day and they were still too busy to come. The ship stayed for 5 days because they could not load the corn in the rain. Finally, it was on a Friday that they were free to come to Tacoma to touch lives of the Captain and crew.

The Captain and crew were the winners in tic, tac, toe because three days in a row, loving Christians took out time to come and be a blessing.

Submitted by Paul Peterson

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

ALL THIS AFTER CLOSING TIME, BUT VERY IMPORTANT

Last Saturday we were quite busy at the Center as there were Seafarers from three different ships in at one time. Some went shopping, some phoned home, and some were on computers. Those from the **Akisha Bridge** ship had been there quite a while and just as they were preparing to leave, I received a

phone call from Lila Smith. Lila has a position with ITF to look after the welfare of the Seafarers in the Ports of Tacoma and Seattle and was on this same **Akisha Bridge** ship at the time of her call. She asked if we could send 2 cell phones over to this ship for the men to call home who were not able to leave the ship that day. Knowing that the ship was leaving Port at 3:00 AM the next morning, I explained to her that we would have no way to get the phones back to the Center. The Seafarers who were just leaving the Center told me that there would be no time to make phone calls between then and 3:00AM. But Lila insisted she must find a way to help them. Soon she called back and had made arrangements for the Captain to call security when the men finished using the phones (probably 2:45 AM) and security would pick them up and get them to us. We then sent them over to the ship with the patiently waiting men who were trying to return to the ship.

This may seem like an everyday simple task to some, but to actually see it happen as is planned (without having the phones sail away with the ship), can be very complicated and trying.

It took a while to make all this happen and it got a bit late, but thanks to the patient help of our volunteer Larry Bean and the patient waiting of the Seafarers who delivered the phones, we made it happen.

The next day, on Sunday afternoon, I was working with Tom and Barbara Harris and I could hardly wait to see if the phones were there. The SHIP WAS LONG GONE, BUT -----THE PHONES WERE THERE!

Lila works very hard for the Seafarers to help make things right and fair for them. She has also been very helpful to our own Seafarers' Center in many ways through the years.

Submitted by Donna Eckhoff



 NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – **June 8, 2009**
 NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **April 28, 2009**
 Devotions: **Pearl Ginther** Hostess: **Joyce Bassett / Pearl Ginther**
 Special Event: **Spring Sale**



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