



# MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

JULY 2009

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## WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 75  
NO. OF VISITS: 74  
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 651



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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.

## A SEARCH FOR FREEDOM

As we approach another Celebration of our Independence from tyranny, we often take our FREEDOM FOR GRANTED and never realize what other people in various countries are going through at the moment.

Case in point on a recent visit to a ship loading corn at the TEMCO dock. All the crew was from the country of Burma (now Myanmar) and only one had a Visa in order to depart the ship. I had an interesting conversation with the Commanding Officer who was surprisingly young and very expressive. He introduced me to his Captain who immediately asked that I bring four Bibles in the Burmese language to the ship. Unfortunately, we did not have the bibles on our shelves, but later returned to the ship with various biblical tracts and he was very appreciative of that information. My understanding is that Bibles are not allowed in this country.

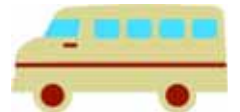
The conversation drifted to the past and current situation in his country and he was very critical of the Military Ruler of Burma. Most of you know that a Cyclone within the past year devastated a good portion of crops, homes and infrastructure of the country and killing an untold number of the population. Part of this was due to the lack of willingness of the "Military Junta" to accept food and medicine supplies from various countries, especially from the USA. This young CO knew the facts and expressed his "Thanks" to the people of the United States and elsewhere in their efforts to help his country. He also had pictures on his computer showing young children made orphans from this disaster. A heart rending look at the lack of compassion and caring from political leaders and rulers.

Normally, I try to shy away from political discussions, but this young man had a story to tell about the lack of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness in his country. I listened carefully. A story we should always remember when we think of our own Freedom in the United States of America.

Submitted by Tom Harris

## NEW VAN

Some have asked questions about the new van purchase so I thought that I would give an explanation of the process. For the most part, our vans have been purchased as a result of grant monies from ITF. ITF is the International Transport and Dockworkers Federation, which is the seafarers' union that they pay dues to. Therefore, the vans are basically purchased with seafarers monies.



I submitted a grant request to ITF in January of 2008. Somehow the grant request was lost somewhere in route to ITF in the United Kingdom. When I found out, about six months after submission, that the grant was not received, I had to resubmit. This is a lengthy process.

This January 2009, I was informed that we would be granted thirty thousand dollars of the requested almost thirty seven thousand dollars towards the purchase of a van. We were in need of a 14-passenger van due to the number of seafarers that we transport at any given time.

Due to the economy situation in 2009, vehicle manufacturers were not making vans in advance as usual. Instead, they were taking orders to build which could take upwards to 6 months to complete.

There were only two vehicles of the type that we needed within a 100 mile radius of us. We chose the least expensive of the two. ITF would not be happy if we just sat on the money for six months as they wanted copies of the purchase within a short time frame.

We were expecting monies from an entity that usually blesses us with a grant on a yearly basis, which is for general support that usually gets us through our lean times. The timing was such, however, that in order to facilitate the purchase of our selected van, I personally had to obtain a short term loan that would make up the 7 thousand dollar shortfall we faced in our van purchase. This was done and subsequently we obtained our expected grant and used part of those monies to pay off the 7 thousand dollar loan.

We have since completed all required correspondence with ITF regarding this van grant/purchase. We have since asked for assistance from our donors to help make up this 7 thousand dollar difference. To date we have made up approximately four thousand one hundred dollars. I thank you so much for all that you do in supporting our ministry. God's blessings on all of you.

Gene Lawrence

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

**CAFETERIA OR INTERNET CAFÉ**

Our Seafarers' Center supplies several services for the seafarers. One service we provide for seafarers is to provide a wireless internet on board the ships while they are in port. This is especially helpful for seafarers with no visa and they cannot go ashore to get connected with their families.

Now seafarers can see their special loved ones through their chat connections on their computer. They can talk with them and they can see and hear their kids laughing.



Five, Six, Seven, Eight computers can use the internet at the same time. But, where to set up all these computers? The cafeteria is converted into an

Internet Café. The place where seafarers eat becomes the place where they meet their families thousands of miles away.



The candid camera caught one man when he became so excited at the moment his computer connected to the internet that he suddenly pulled up his shirt out of excitement. Boys will be boys.



We also provide wireless internet at the Seafarers' Center for those who have a shore pass.



Sometimes the one room can become over crowded.

This is all a part of our motto to show them we care so that they will care what we know.

Submitted by Paul Peterson



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NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – September 14, 2009

NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – August 25, 2009

Potluck/Decorations **Jane Oberg, Sue Bauer**

Devotions: **Gina Goulding**

Snacks: **Sue Bauer**

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