



# MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

SEPTEMBER 2009

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## WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 68  
NO. OF VISITS: 62  
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 455



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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 THINK WE HAVE PROBLEMS

We've been experiencing various effects of the economy for quite some time. At the Port, however, it took awhile to show up. We have just recently begun to see a great reduction in the number of ships coming into the Port, and therefore the number of seafarers we serve. Since we are here to serve whoever needs it, the main negative effect could seem to be that we miss seeing our friends, having interaction with them. But something much more important needs our prayers: **the reduced number of ships means that seafarers are losing their jobs.**

We've always been aware of the sacrifice seafarers make to work for the shipping companies - many months-in-a-row separated from their families every year, dangers on the seas, little freedom and discomfort in various forms (little control of who they spend endless hours with, unceasing movement and noise on the ship, little diversion, etc.). But, because they had steady work and the wages were considerably better than they could get at jobs in their home countries, they have always been grateful for their jobs, knowing they were needed. That has changed. When asked, one of the seafarers told me the car and container ships are the most effected, but none of them is protected from the threat of job loss.

Please pray for the seafarers. First, that they and their families would seek refuge in God during these tougher-than-ever times for them all. Also, that they would have wisdom and confidence in God's guidance and provision. And please pray for us that we might be an encouragement and be faithful to pray.

Submitted by Sue Bauer

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

*Rev. Ray Eckhoff*

## REWARDING EXPERIENCES

I've been volunteering at the Seafarers' Center for 4-1/2 years and what a great opportunity we have at

the Center, in testifying of our Christian faith and providing seaman with the Christian Bibles in English as well as their native language.

Tom Harris was my mentor for several days prior to giving me the responsibility of driving the 14 passenger vans and conducting activities such as boarding ocean going freighters and working in our Center. We transport seamen to various places in Tacoma, such as Tacoma Mall, Costco, Best Buy, Asiatic markets and the Seafarers' Center.

Service at the Center includes free access to the internet, use of the telephones for calling home, computer usage, free bibles and Christian publications in English as well as their native language. In addition, seamen are able to purchase many items at our Center, such as clothing, snacks, candy, nuts, and health related items. Our Center also provides free coffee, tea cookies and TV viewing in our lounge area.

I thank the Lord for granting me this opportunity to become acquainted with seamen from all around the world.

Ship crew members vary from 20-24, consisting of a Captain; first, second, third Mates; first, second and third Engineers, and the remaining crew members are assigned duties with the cargo and keeping the ship very clean throughout.

It's been very rewarding for me to have the opportunity to interact with seamen from many countries around the world. Usually I discuss with them their family status, culture values, life style on their ships and religious statue in the country.

Some experiences I've had include meeting a seaman from Fargo, North Dakota (my hometown), invitations from captains and other officers to view the entire ship explaining the entire functions of the systems throughout. Chefs also invite us to dine with them.

Most recently, I had the privilege of visiting with Captain Josko Vitezica (Croatian); his ship was **APL Minneapolis**, bringing in cargo from China and returning goods to Japan. His term is 4 months on the sea, then 2-3 months off. The ship was made in

China; however, most equipment and computers were made in Germany. This ship was only one year old and had the latest electronics and computers that monitor all the systems and provide navigational information, including other ships from 100+ miles out. The Captain explained the functions of all equipment in the bridge area.

The Captain was of Catholic faith and took his religion seriously. We spend 20 minutes in his cabin area discussing family values, the Croatian culture, as well as religion and the role it should play in our lives. I had the opportunity of providing the Captain and many crew members with daily devotion booklets.

On August 11, 2009, I had a gratifying experience with a Pilipino crew on the **MOL Bravery**. Alex is a very professional welder (even underwater) and spends 9 months at sea, then is home 3 months. He and his family live in Manila, which as a population of approximately 20 million residents. Crew members make 3-5 times the salary they could make in their homeland. Alex was unmarried; and in their culture, the eldest members of the family assist their parents and siblings in every way. They are very family oriented and at times share residents with parents or children and families. Catholic is the predominate religion in the Philippines. Most crew members are Christian oriented and I again had the opportunity of providing them with Christian devotion booklets.

The seamen really appreciate the service we are providing for them at the Seafarers' Center and also donate some money for gas in our vehicles.

Thanks be to God for granting us the opportunity of testifying and sharing our Christian faith with the seamen from around the world.

Submitted by Maynard Border

**TALL SHIPS**

When one hears "Tall Ships", sailboats with tall masts come into mind. But the ships today are very, very tall. Standing on the ground looking up, the

perspective is unique. The containers are stacked so tall reaching into the heavens. When in port, the perspective of business is to look at the money contained in the containers, or the cost of shipping. A ship can contain over 5,000 containers and cost a million dollars every month to fill it with fuel.



BUT, the Lord's perspective is not to see the tall ship itself, but the seafarers who sail on the ship. The ship will not last for eternity. The containers will not last for eternity. The fuel is burned up. It's the seafarers that will last for eternity.

Pray that we will always have the proper perspective in the ministry to seafarers.

Submitted by  
Chaplain Paul Peterson

**Christmas Boxes**

Due to an unforeseen circumstance, the Christmas boxes will not be available as originally stated; our supplier went out of business. I have had to find another supplier and will not be able to receive the boxes until approximately the last week in September 2009.



Please accept my apologies for this. We still have plenty of time, however, to get the boxes to you in time for us to receive them back from you by Thanksgiving.

You may call and check with us anytime after the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 to see if we have the boxes for dispersal.

Yours in Christ,  
H Gene Lawrence, Executive Director



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 NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – **September 14, 2009**  
 NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **September 22, 2009**  
 Potluck / Decorations: **Jane Oberg & Sue Bauer**      Devotions: **Gina Goulding**  
 Snacks: **Sue Bauer & Gina Goulding**  
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