



MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

OCTOBER 2009

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WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 59
NO. OF VISITS: 58
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 425



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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.

PEARL GINTHER CELEBRATES 100 YEARS 9/13/1909 – 9/13/2009

One of God's earthly angels celebrated her 100th birthday on September 13th. She was born in 1909 in South Dakota on a beautiful fall day. She moved to the Tacoma area in 1942. Pearl raised eight children. Her father Alfred and mother Bergit raised nine children on a farm near Canton, SD. Pearl's motto "That His Light Shine Through--To God Be His Glory" resonates through out her life. Her family attended a large birthday celebration on the weekend of the 13th. Relatives from across the US and Europe attended. Over 200 friends and family reached out to honor this wonderful woman. In addition to her own children, she had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, plus numerous other relatives and guests. Her reception was held at Mt. View Lutheran Church.

For years, Pearl has told her friends, "I plan to make it to my 100th birthday if my family likes it or not." Pearl has been an active member of Mt. View Lutheran Church and carried God's mission to the Tacoma Seafarer's Center since 1980.

In describing her accomplishments, we could fill this entire newsletter. But, for her sake we'll only list the top ten!

Each year Pearl personally wraps 30+ Christmas boxes and writes letters to all the seafarers that receive her church's gifts. She is and has been a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary for 29 years. She attends monthly meetings, has served as President, Historian, devotion leader, cookie-maker, recruiter, prayer chain member and numerous other roles. Pearl is fervent Pray-er for the Seafarers' and any others that she hears about.

Several of Pearls' children are also serving at the Center. She has an innate ability to make you smile and laugh (often at herself). Pearl could not be more enthusiastic about spreading God's word through our ministry. She is an example of love, faithfulness and commitment, with a source from God's Spirit itself. One of your writers was brought to the Center ten years back, when asked to help deliver Christmas boxes. She is a contributor in every way possible.

THANK YOU PEARL! THANK YOU GOD, FOR OUR PRECIOUS PEARL!!

Submitted by Ed, Sue and Herb

IS IT UNWISE TO BRIBE YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND CHURCH? --- MAYBE NOT

Late on a Saturday afternoon I had the privilege of meeting Capt. King Kong, a Taiwanese from the ship **HATSU ENVOY**. Paul had just brought the Captain and his crew back from the Tacoma Mall. His presence was that of a shining sun with all its brightness and warmth as he greeted me. Before he had spoken but a few words, I knew he was a Christian. He told me that he had a special relationship with his crew and when he said this, he wrapped his arms around the shoulders of several crew members.

In further conversation, I asked Capt. King Kong if his father and mother were Christians also. "Oh no", he responded. "You see, I had a close friend as a child whose mother was a Christian, but her son (my friend) did not want to go to church with her. One day the mother promised me a candy bar if I would go to church with her son. This thought sounded great to me, so I said yes I would! Then in weeks following, the mother promised me a tricycle if I would continue to go to church with her son. This thought sounded even greater to me, so I said yes I surely would!"

While the promises of a candy bar and a tricycle were being fulfilled, the Holy Spirit was working in the heart and mind of this young boy and he has been a faithful and vibrant follower of the Lord ever since. He later married a Christian wife and he told me his children are even more devout in their Christian life than he is. He is a great example for all of us at the Center.

PS. Capt. King Kong took the time to teach me a great relaxing exercise.

INHALE - while saying **EM-MAN-U-EL**. (4 distinct syllables)

EXHALE - while saying **HAL-LE-LU-JAH** (4 distinct syllables)

Guess what? It works!

Submitted by Donna Eckhoff

WoWoWee

Wowowee the number one game show in the Philippines came to Tacoma Dome on September 13th. The famous host and hostesses and special guests came and presented a five-hour program for local Filipinos. In the Philippines, this show brings so much happiness, laughter and even tears to the contestants and the people who watch it.

Filipino seafarers are always looking for this program. We get requests for this program from ships still sailing across the ocean on their way to the West coast.

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

Rev. Ray Eckhoff



Whenever we can, we provide it to the seafarers along with gospel recordings, tracts and testaments.

We can even mail a "care" package to the agent in another port city. One Captain emailed us a 'thank you' for their ship's care package:

"We duly received the *Wowowee* through our agent.

The entire crew so amazed & always asking on me how you spent your times of sacrifice recording *Wowowee* just to contribute happiness to us seafarers.

"We really appreciate all your efforts for us seafarers, but most of all, & the precious Gift of all ... you enclosed in your package **The WORDS OF GOD**. These booklets, although very small, giving us BIG reminders 'that the Lord Jesus Christ love the world so much.'

Again, thank you very much & God be with us all ways."

Best regards, Captain

Well, Amen to that email. God be with us always and as the Captain put it: in "all ways."

Submitted by Chaplain Paul Peterson

EIGHT SEAFARERS AND ELEVEN COMPUTERS FILLED THE ROOM!

It was the **Great Morning** that brought this crew to Tacoma on a Saturday afternoon.

What a great sight it was when eight men came through the back door of our Center, all at one time with a hearty "Good Morning". All carried backpacks and announced they were from the ship, **Great Morning** – a cheerful sound!

I asked if they would like to go shopping later on, but they said they just wanted to stay at the Center. Instantly, I saw why. All backpacks were opened simultaneously and a lap top was unpacked from each one. They didn't ask for assistance of any kind, but immediately located all outlets. Two sat on the sofa with laptops placed on the coffee table in front of them, six sat at the main tables, and one made a

space next to the coffee pot where he saw an outlet (very ingenious, I thought) and pulled up a chair right there. It was quite a sight as we are so aware how valuable this immediate contact with their families is. They were busy as bees, but quiet as a mouse.



When Paul returned, he too had a big smile on his face. I said, "look Paul, eight men and eight computers" (this is very unusual). As Paul looked over the situation, he said, "no, there are eleven computers!" They had brought three friends' computers to get them updated. There again, very ingeniously. One turned a shopping basket upside down to hold one extra laptop and one placed another extra on the chair behind him.



We're so happy for the Seafarers as more and more of them are able to afford to buy the computers. It's heartwarming to see them in action.

Submitted by Donna Eckhoff

Christmas Boxes are in ...

They're here ... Please come and get yours so that we may begin giving them out the day after Thanksgiving.



What a wonderful way to share the joy of Christ's birthday, by giving to others and to let those who do not yet know the story of Jesus, that He is everyone's Savior.



Yours in Christ,
H Gene Lawrence, Executive Director



NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – **December 14, 2009**
NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **October 27, 2009**
Devotions: **Delphine Tucker** Hostess: **St. Patricks**
Snacks: **St. Patricks**



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