



# MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

DECEMBER 2009

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## WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 56  
NO. OF VISITS: 56  
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 346



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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
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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.

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



This is a wonderful time of year as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. Of course, our readers know that we at the Tacoma Seafarers' Center are trying to bring Christ and His love to the seafarers who are away from home at this time of the year. But, I would like everyone to remember also, the many men and women of our Armed Forces who are stationed so far from home and families. They need your prayer support as they fulfill their duties to our Country as directed by their superiors. We also need to pray for our Country and our leaders. It does not make a difference what your political persuasion as you lift up prayer for our Country's leaders. We need to ask God to bless our leaders to make good, sensible and moral decisions. We ask God that He will direct His Spirit to lead us back to Him and that our Country will once again become 'One Nation under God'.

May God Bless America.

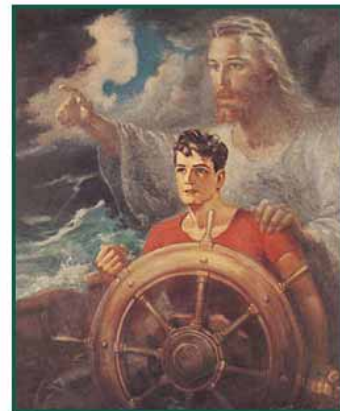
H. Gene Lawrence  
Executive Director

who is their greatest gift of all. This, for some becomes their first step in their walk with Jesus. And, of course we all know too, that this also means so much to them to know that somebody loves them, as they are so far from home and families.

Merry Christmas to you from the Staff and Volunteers of the Tacoma Seafarers' Center.

### WHAT DO STORMS REMIND YOU OFF?

When the rain and winds hit Washington State, what do you think of? Please remember the seafarers on ships on the rough seas. When it is windy and rainy on land, the ships at sea nearing our coast are being beaten and battered and are tossing and turning.



The seafarers are in peril like Paul in Acts 27. They cannot eat or sleep when their ship is rolling back and forth and tilting at over 30 degrees from side to side and pitching up and down. Please pray for the safety of the seafarers this winter whenever you experience heavy rains on land.

Last month one ship lost over 25 containers in the same storm that hit us on land. On the same ship, a Filipino seafarer was working in the engine room being tossed back and forth. Both of his wrists were slashed when his arms encountered the engine pistons. An emergency call was made upstairs to the 2/O. He rushed down to the engine room staggering on the storm tossed ship. He stopped the bleeding and saved the life of his fellow seafarer. At the Seafarers' Center the engineer showed me the patch work stitches sutured by the life saving act of the Second Officer.

The next time a storm hits, be reminded to pray for the souls on the seas.

Submitted by Paul Peterson

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

*Rev. Ray Eckhoff*

### CHRISTMAS BOXES



By the time you read this issue of the Mooring Lines, we will have already celebrated Thanksgiving and will have started to hand out Christmas boxes to seafarers. For those of you that have so generously given of your time and resources to fill boxes and deliver them to the seafarers for us, I would like to say, 'May God richly bless you for all that you have done.' If you have not had the time to get the boxes done and to us, there is still time before Christmas to put the boxes together and get them to us for delivery.

The seafarers who have been to our Port during past Christmas times are so looking forward to their visit to our Port again this year in anticipation of our gifts to them. As we have stated in the past, this may be the only Christmas gift to these hard working seafarers, and to some it is their first exposure to our way of celebrating Christ's birthday. This gives us such a wonderful opportunity to share Christ,

**TREASURE**

One Thursday evening, my husband, Herb, and I were at the Seafarers' Center. Several Filipino men from *M/V Hyundai Dominion* were using phones and the Internet. One Russian man spent a few hours there on the Internet, contacting his family, doing research, etc. After some time, another Russian crew member came in. He spoke awhile with the first man in Russian and then wandered around the Center a bit, drinking coffee, buying some store items and finally went to the literature tables. I saw him pick up an (English) Amplified Bible and thumb through it. I knew we had some Scripture in Russian in our resource room but didn't want to imply that this man couldn't read and understand English, so hesitated to offer the Russian literature to him.

Finally, I asked God's help and asked the man if he'd like to see something in Russian. He nodded and I got both a New Testament and the whole Bible. He didn't spend much time looking at the New Testament, but held up the whole Bible and began telling me that those in his country who believed in God said that the New Testament books about Jesus were the only ones that should be read because the other ones were about the Jewish people who don't believe in Christ. This man said that Jesus was a Jew Himself and that the Old Testament tells us background important to believing in Christ, but he is frustrated because people discourage any use of the Old Testament.

After some time of discussing his concern, he finally said in a rather timid voice, "May I *have* this (meaning the whole Bible)?" He went away happy, with a new **treasure**. I realized how much I take God's word and good teaching for granted.

Submitted by Sue Bauer

**THE REASONS JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA CLAUS**

Seafarers see how we celebrate Christmas in America. They can easily get the wrong idea about the true reason for the season. Pray for us as we give seafarers these better reasons to believe in Jesus, rather than in Santa Claus.

Santa lives at the North Pole.  
**JESUS** is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh.  
**JESUS** rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year.  
**JESUS** is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies.  
**JESUS** fills your heart with joy and supplies all your needs.

You have to wait in line to see Santa.  
**JESUS** is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap.  
**JESUS** lets you rest in His arms.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly.  
**JESUS** has a heart full of love.

Santa says "You better not cry".  
**JESUS** says "Cast all your cares on me, for I care for you."

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited.  
**JESUS** stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"

**JESUS** knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address, our history, our future and how many hairs are on our heads.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO.  
**JESUS** offers hope, health and help.

Santa's little helpers make toys.  
**JESUS** makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle; but,  
**JESUS** gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree,  
**JESUS** became our gift and died on a tree.

Santa rose up on a sleigh.  
**Jesus** rose up from the grave.

**Yes**, Jesus is better than Santa Claus. It's obvious there is really no comparison. We need to remember **WHO** Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in **CHRIST**mas. For the seafarers, Jesus is still the reason for the season.

Submitted by Paul Peterson



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NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – **December 14, 2009**  
NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – **No December Meeting**



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

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