



# MOORING LINES



A TIE WITH PEOPLE OF THE SEA

JANUARY 2010

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Printed Monthly by The Tacoma Seafarers' Center

## WATERFRONT STATISTICS

SHIPS IN PORT: 51  
NO. OF VISITS: 51  
SEAFARERS RECEIVING MINISTRY: 501



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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

Christmas has past for 2009 and now we are enjoying the start of a new year. I would however, like to reflect a little on the past year. As of this writing we have given out 1294 Christmas boxes. A little less than 200 will be left to give out during the rest of 2009 Christmas season. 2009 was a challenge in many ways, especially since the economy hit everyone so hard, but the Lord was Faithful in making sure that we were able to complete our mission of sharing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I give all Glory to God for this opportunity to do what has been done.

One of our Beloved Ladies of our Ladies Auxiliary had an early Christmas present on 18 December 2009; **Betty Hoffman** was called home to be with Jesus. What a glorious time she must be having in the presence of our Heavenly Father. Of course, her family and friends will miss her deeply, but we have joy in the knowledge that we who walk with the Lord will soon be with Betty once again.

Since I am speaking of our final days on earth, I might mention that we should all think about the possibility of the gift that keeps on giving, in that maybe we can see a way to set something aside in our last will and testaments that can be given to the Global Mission we have here in the Port of Tacoma at the Tacoma Seafarers' Center.

I look forward with great joy at the opportunity to continue to serve Jesus, through the seafarers. If you have not done so before, think about stopping by at our Center to see the opportunities for service. Those of us who serve here are having a wonderful time fulfilling the Lord's Great Commission.

I would like to thank all of you who have served the Seafarers' Center through your time, talent and finances. We could not do this great work without your support.

Have a Glorious New Year.

H. Gene Lawrence  
Executive Director

### SMILES ALL AROUND - DELIVERING CHRISTMAS BOXES

I was fortunate to deliver Christmas Boxes prepared by our friends here in the Tacoma Area to the **THETIS**, moored at the **TEMCO** grain elevator. Fortunate because in my years of volunteering at the Tacoma Seafarers' Center, I've never seen so many excited crew members when I asked for their help to bring the boxes on board. They welcomed me on deck and I followed them to their crew lounge where they showed me the Christmas tree (actually two) recently decorated. No presents around the tree, but they carefully placed the Christmas Boxes around the tree(s) and every one of them had a big smile knowing they would be able to open a gift on Christmas Eve. Plans had been made for a Christmas dinner and party on Christmas Day, but that was about all.



Later that evening, I transported a number of them over to the Center and they used the internet and phone facilities. It was a fun day for me and it made me smile knowing how excited they were over the gifts provided.

For those of you that support this Ministry and take the time to purchase items, wrap the gifts and deliver them to TSC year after year, you need to know your efforts are not in vain. Thank You and Smile as God Loves You.

Submitted by Tom Harris

**THE LONELY CHRISTIAN**

Sue and I were part of the staff on duty at the Seafarers' Center on a Tuesday night just before Christmas.

Six seafarers walked into the Center and made some phone calls, used the Internet and made a few store purchases. Five of the men wanted to go shopping at the Tacoma Mall, but the other said he just wanted to be where it was quiet. He made a call to his wife and daughter in the Philippines and after about 30 minutes, he came out where I was working behind the store counter.

To break the ice, I asked if he was able to get through to his family and if they were well. I introduced myself and asked him his name. He was Max, the First Oiler on the ship **M/V MOL Discovery**. He told me he had been sailing about 16 years and he hated to leave his family, but that was the best way he could provide for them.

He noticed we had free Christian literature so he asked if he could have one of them. That gave an opportunity to find that he was a Christian and we began to share things about Him. Sue came in and joined us and pretty soon, the room was not quiet, but filled with Christians chatting away about our relationship with the Lord.

Max said he was the only dedicated follower of Christ on the ship and he never had a chance to attend church or fellowship with other like-minded people. He said he read his Bible each day, but really longed to have others to share his faith with. We prayed with him about his concerns.

Max stayed at the Center until all the others returned and our driver took them back to the ship with Christmas boxes for each crew member. The

ship was headed for Japan and then to China where the ship was to be scrapped. Then Max would return to his family until time to get another ship.

Submitted by Herb Bauer

**NEITHER SUB-FREEZING TEMPERATURES nor --**

The picture of these two crew members from the **HYUNDAI KINGDOM**, huddled outside the Tacoma Seafarers' Center was taken during the recent cold snap that we had here in Tacoma. Knowing that we would be closing at 9 PM on Friday night, they chose to use their computers in freezing weather to keep in touch with loved ones in the Philippines. Being close to our wireless they can use their computers at any time.



I was shivering when I left the Center and could hardly wait to get home, but these two young crew members didn't let the cold weather faze them a bit. Closing the Center, I was in awe at these two and I have no idea how long they stayed there in the cold that night.

What dedication to their families and what spirit all crew members have to stay in touch with family and friends.

Submitted by Tom Harris

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



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NEXT TSC BOARD MEETING – February 8, 2010

NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – January 26, 2010

Devotions: Lillian Ellenwood

Hostess: Trinity Lutheran

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