



Lighthouse Beacon

Volume 18 Issue 2

News from Lighthouse Harbour Ministries

Summer 2014

Does God Give Up on People?

by Teus Kappers

For many years my wife, Maria, and I felt greatly challenged when we would see a ship coming into port with the image of a hammer and sickle on its funnel. However, in response we went on a mission to meet the Russians aboard!

With much prayer and trembling and Russian Bibles in our briefcase, we climbed up the gangways of ships with Eastern European seafaring visitors aboard. Once aboard we were greeted with stern looks and unfriendly demands such as, "What do you want?"

After experiencing some of these visits we grew wiser and did not immediately disclose the purpose of our visit. Instead, we began to respond to the sharp inquiries about our reason for boarding the ships with equally stern looks and responses like, for example, "we want to see the commissar (the political party leader on the ship)". The men on the ship feared this man and, as a result, no further questions were asked. In fact, the next command we usually heard was, "Come."

Normally, the commissar was the man a person wanted to avoid but the Lord put it into our hearts to focus on this fellow. However, his response regarding our actual purpose was most often the same: "Not necessary." We could have easily become discouraged by this because it appeared that we were not having any success in our ministry. But, we continued to pray and go. As a result of our perseverance, many hundreds of Bibles were accepted and even more conversations about the Lord Jesus were held.

In the Bible Genesis 6:3 states: "My Spirit will not always strive with men." (KJV) There seems to be a time that God gives people over to sin (eg. Romans 1:24). But, we need to remember

that only God can see the heart of man and, for our part, we should never give up praying for the salvation of lost souls. When we feel discouraged because of the apparent lack of "success" in ministering to others, we can and should encourage each other in the Lord.

A few years after the fall of the Soviet Union we experienced some of the above mentioned encouragement. At a Harbour International Ministries seafaring conference an ex-commissar joined our fellowship. He had become a chaplain to seafarers in a former Soviet republic! This chaplain said to us: "As a commissar I was very harsh against you Christians coming to our ship again and again. But, God was merciful and opened my eyes to the Truth you shared with me."

God is so good!



Seafarer at work on board in Vancouver



Victoria Crew Ministry News Update

The following is a very recent point by point report from Chaplain Cecil Kleu regarding the status of this year's outreach to the crews of the passenger ships coming to Ogden Point in Victoria. We believe that it provides a very succinct summary of "where things are at." There seems to be much going on!

Cecil writes:

"Right now the (crew ministry) tent is empty and cold with a cool wind blowing. There is no sign of the warmth, friendship, encouragement and rich human interaction [that display] God's peace and grace when the tent is full of seafarers and ministry workers. There is little evidence of the life struggles, disappointments, and small victories experienced by hundreds of crew members as they connect with their families and friends from their home (away from home) in Victoria - The Lighthouse Crew Tent."

Much has been happening regarding the tent facility that is used for Ministry and crew communication. To provide you with an idea of the level of activity Cecil indicates:

"New routers [for wireless internet that seafarers use to contact loved ones] were installed; new chairs [for the tent] were installed; new carpet was laid [inside the tent]; ...[attendees of a men's prayer breakfast] helped clean, carpet and re-furniture the tent; many donations of tea, coffee, cookies and toques were gratefully received; ... [a fellowship] provided a box of New Testaments to bridge the gap [until a new supply is received]."

In addition, the following comments were made:

"The new fresh water hose and tap work well; the PC is very fast, well used [and] now has sound - often plays "Praise 106.5" [radio]; Valentine [a seafarer] checks in every week for Teus [Kappers] and has left a gift; Felitia's gift to the lady from Grenada is waiting; we are a bit like the post office tree for visiting ships; tea station is new; cof-

"God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all."

(1 John 1:5)

fee, tea, green tea is plentiful; cookies and Toques move fast; I have no words to explain the peace and friendship in the tent, other than to try to blame it on God's presence. Surely this tent belongs to Jesus! We now have a long list of volunteers and are ready to move to online scheduling. Tags are in use; please pray for the [Victoria Lighthouse Ministry] board meeting tonight; we could use another router and cisco wifi manager; Marcellino [Christian seafarer] and his fellowship from the Carnival Miracle [cruise ship] are planning "Praise in the Tent" on Jun 30 - we could use the loan of a guitar, drum and keyboard."

In His Great Love, Cecil Kleu, Chaplain



Chaplain Kleu with Christian seafarer



Prayer Porthole



Please petition the Lord in regard to the following:

- Thanksgiving for the Lord's goodness and kindness in allowing LHM to participate in building His Kingdom.
- That the Holy Spirit will bring a young Greek seafarer, P, (with marital problems) to Jesus.
- For the Lord to open the eyes of a young Turkish engineer, C, to Gospel truth.
- That a seafarer, R, from a restricted nation would see Jesus.
- For the Lord to give true wisdom to a Ukrainian seafarer, A, who is inquiring spiritually.
- For guidance and blessing for Michael, a summer intern with LHM.
- That the Lord would raise up more volunteers for LHM who are committed to Jesus.
- For the possible establishment of a seafarers ministry at the Port of Kitimat, BC.
- For the Lord to guide the decision maker of the refugee claim made by Sri Lankan seafarer, S.
- For the Lord to provide financially for LHM during the summer months.

MS Regatta Visits North Vancouver

by Michael Buesink, LHM Summer Intern

It seems that each day of summer brings a new cruise ship into Vancouver's harbour. However, at LHM we do not normally have the opportunity to meet the crews of these ships because of, for example, security restrictions. Recently, however, the Lord opened a door for ministry to the crew of one of these ships.

At the beginning of June the *MS Regatta* was in drydock on Vancouver's North Shore. Conveniently situated within easy walking distance to the North Van Seamen's centre, the Regatta had a crew of about four hundred people from forty different nationalities aboard. Its ten day stay in drydock provided Lighthouse workers, myself included, time to really get to know some of the regular visitors to the Centre.

The Regatta's crew members truly appreciated the service of the mission; particularly the free wifi. But many also wanted to share their experiences with us and, therefore, I was able to listen to these men and women talk about their lives; this was great. One Indian man, for example, sat down with me and showed me pictures of several places he had seen while working on board. He was proud to tell me about his faith, family and upcoming plans to be married.



Michael (left) with Ghanaian cargo ship seafarer.

On another occasion, a young Guatemalan lady told me that she had an English Bible but was having difficulties understanding the language. So, I offered her a Spanish Bible which she was pleased to receive. She also took a Jesus film DVD which she soon began to watch on board.

My time with the crew of the Regatta was a real blessing. I have already received emails from one of the ship's sailors and hope to hear from more of them. Lord willing, before their contracts end I also hope to visit with a few of them in Victoria when I serve with the Crews Ministry there.



Summertime Supply

Lighthouse has been blessed by an incredibly faithful God. Over the years the Lord has inspired numerous brothers and sisters to pray and give of their time and finances to the work of the Mission. For this we are deeply grateful.

Over the summer months the Mission's needs really do not change; the majority of Lighthouse's monthly commitments continue. Therefore, the Ministry would like to request that you join us in praying that, during the sometimes financially challenging summer months, the Lord will continue to provide for the Mission so that the work can continue unhindered.

"At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little." (2 Cor. 8:14-15)



Freighter sails out of Vancouver's inner harbour in the fog

Contributions toward the Lord's work at Lighthouse Harbour Ministries can be made by:

- Cash or cheque
- Visa and MasterCard
- Automatic debits to bank account
- Post-dated cheques
- Planned giving through wills, charitable bequests, life insurance etc

For more information regarding any of the above, feel free contact LHM at (604) 988-5084 or email: info@sealight.org. If you have access to the internet you can also donate on-line via our secured web site at www.sealight.org.

Thank you for considering LHM.

Lighthouse Harbour Ministries

Our Mission

To love and honour God by serving the seafarers of the world in Word and deed.

Port Chaplain

Teus Kappers

Contact

1 - 260 E. Esplanade
North Vancouver B.C.
Canada V7L 1A3

Phone: (604) 988-5084

Fax: (604) 988-3175

Email: info@sealight.org

Web site: www.sealight.org

LHM Stewardship Policy:

Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards a board approved program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such program or project will be used where needed most.



CANADIAN COUNCIL of CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

"Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"

Revelation 19:9