

# Lighthouse Beacon



Good News of the Lord's Work at Lighthouse Harbour Ministries

Fall 2018

## Rolling and Pitching

(P. Ratsoy, Office Admin./Chaplain)

Perhaps the words "rolling and pitching" bring to your mind the sport of baseball or, maybe, of being out on the golf course. However, for an international seafarer these terms mean something which is completely unrelated to recreation or games.

They are used to describe the movement of ships in rough seas. *Rolling* refers to the port (left side) to starboard (right side) movement and *pitching* to the bow (front) to the stern (back). The winter season, in particular, is a time when sailors experience much "rolling and pitching" aboard their ships while sailing on the North Pacific Ocean. As you read the articles included in this issue

of the *Lighthouse Beacon*, please remember to pray for the seafarers who will be "bouncing around" at sea over the upcoming months.

## Prayer for Thuy

—by Allen Jones, LHM Director and Volunteer

Thuy (not his real name) is a Thai seafarer I met aboard his ship on a hot day in July. He was standing watch near the gangway. As I conversed with him I found out that he is Buddhist. When I asked Thuy what he believes will happen to us after death, he told me that he will return to earth in another life. Because Thuy claimed to be a Buddhist, I

struggled with the idea of how to share the truth with him, thinking that he didn't believe in God or His word. But, I decided to plunge ahead anyway and said that the Bible says we die only once and after that comes judgement. This led to a conversation about God as our loving Creator, Judge and Saviour. Using a New Testament I showed

Thuy Scripture from Romans 3 which explains that we have all turned away from God but that He has provided the way back to Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

I was inspired to pray for Thuy. He didn't understand prayer and looked on while I thanked God for our meeting and asked Him

to lead Thuy to faith in Jesus. It was a short, simple prayer but the response stunned me: the seafarer asked me to show him how to pray! Thuy asked me to write down my prayer but I couldn't remember the exact words I used. So, instead, I showed him the Lord's Prayer in Matthew. But that was too long for him so I suggested that he simply ask God to show him what is true (as he reads Scripture). I gave him a New Testament and he said he would read it. I believe that he will.

Please pray for Thuy: that God will move him to read the Scripture and will lead him to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.





**“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.” (Isaiah 40:8)**

### Arranged Marriage

- by Teus Kappers, Chaplain Emeritus

A few weeks ago, a group of Indian sailors walked into the Fraser Surrey Docks centre. They quickly settled down and partook of coffee, tea, cookies and, the most important thing, Wi-Fi.

After a while, one of the seafarers, a young man, came and sat next to me. Soon we were engaged in a great conversation, largely about marriage. The conversation went something like this: “Are you married yet?” I asked. “No, I am only 22 [years old],” he responded. “So do you have a girlfriend yet with whom you would like to get married?” “Yes,” he said, “but I cannot marry her.” “Why not?” “Because she is not of my cast and we would really upset and disappoint our parents.” “So you believe in arranged marriage?” I asked. “Yes it is our tradition,” he replied. “So the girl you really love you cannot get married to and you have to settle for second best,” I said. “No, I cannot and will not disappoint my family. I will have to learn to love the girl my parents will get me for our arranged marriage.”

This whole discussion took me back some 50 years when my brother and I sided with each other against our father regarding the issue of arranged marriage. The two of us concluded that, in the 1960s, love marriage was for us!

“So who arranged your marriage?” the sailor asked. “Do you have a love marriage?” “Well God did [arrange it]” was my reply.” He then inquired, “How did He do that?” I told him that, not long after my discussion with my dad, I had become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ and had trusted Him to give me a good wife. Really interested, he asked, “Does it work?” “Well, yes.” I said. “It has worked for the past 46 years.” I then encouraged him to ask God to arrange the marriage with the girl he really loves and to change the hearts of both of their parents so that a miracle of God can

be seen, working above his culture.” With that he got up and walked away.

If I was in the young seafarer’s situation, I think I would have told my dad that I will look for a wife myself. However, this just shows the difference between our cultures. At Lighthouse we meet seafarers from many different cultures.



**Grateful for Good News**

### The First Step

– by Joel Palit-ang, Chaplain

Lighthouse workers endeavour to communicate the Gospel message to sailors. In doing this, we use a proactive approach rather than waiting for an inquiring soul to engage us. The reason for this is simple: seldom do we come across sailors who take *the first step* and ask *us* about spiritual things.

One recent evening at the North Vancouver seafarers’ centre, I sat down to speak with two sailors

**2018 Advent Breakfast—Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018—8:30 a.m.**  
Bethany Baptist Church, 22680 Westminster Highway, Richmond—Book your seat now!



who were talking with each other while using their cel. phones. I joined their discussion (about their families) and then slowly shifted the conversation to God's Word and how it can change a person's life. A third sailor, sitting nearby, was eavesdropping on our communication. He soon turned to us and joined in the talk. It turned out that he was, actually, more interested in the conversation than were the other two sailors. This was evident when, after I left the meeting in order to help a sailor at the cash register, the third sailor followed me to continue our conversation. He told me about his desire to become a different person and his yearning, for many months, to be drawn away from the evils of the world.

Many days after our first encounter, I visited the third sailor aboard his ship. I was glad that his ship was still in port and during our time together we sat down and had a longer discussion about living a life in Christ. Presently, we continue to be in contact even though he has left Vancouver. Please pray that his spiritual journey will be guided.

**“Do Not Fear, for I am with you.”** (Isaiah 41:10)

**“Mourn With Those Who Mourn”**  
(Romans 12:15)

- by Bill Wong, LHM Director and Volunteer

In early June of this year, I visited a ship in North Vancouver with one of my colleagues, Paul. He planned to spend some time with the ship's young captain, whom he had met previously. While Paul was with the captain, I went to the ship's galley and met John, the chef cook. In chatting with John, I found out he had lost his wife to cancer back in the Philippines. Although she passed away in February, I could sense that John was still grieving. This chief cook had only recently joined his ship in Vancouver area, after taking some time off following her passing. I felt this was a divine encounter as God's timing could not have been better.

As port chaplains, we're called to offer comfort to those who are in need of comfort; but oftentimes, we're at a loss regarding the right words to say.

Everyone experiences grief differently, but we do have a common goal: acceptance of the loss and movement forward. I've found the Word of God can give us tremendous comfort and solid counsel in times of loss and grieving. As believers in Christ, when we grieve with someone, we can hold on to the promises found in God's Word.

Initially I spent some time just listening to John as he vented his feelings. Then I encouraged him with a few appropriate Scripture passages (John 16:22; Rev. 21:4; Phil. 4:7). He told me that he and his wife were believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. I prayed with John and gave him a hug before I left him to his work. I thanked the Lord for giving me the opportunity to be a caring friend to John during his time of loss.

*John and Bill*



## Halifax Update

— by Ray Hanna—Senior Chaplain

My recent trip to Canada's east coast achieved many of things that were prayed for. This was my second journey to Halifax to encourage local Christians to establish a ministry to seafarers in their port. In Psalm 118:21 we read: *I shall give thanks to You, for*

(Continued on page 4)



*You have answered me, And You have become my salvation.*

Prayer was answered as security personnel at an auto port and grain/bulk cargo facility gave us approval to go aboard ships. By God's grace I was also able to visit some vessels with Halifax locals, Stephane and Nick, in order to familiarize them with seafarer Gospel ministry. May those visits result in glory for the Lord!

Thank you for praying. Please continue to do so!



Ray (top r.), volunteer and seafarers in Halifax.

**Lighthouse Harbour Ministries**

**Our Mission**

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

**Senior Port Chaplain**

Ray Hanna

**Chaplain Emeritus**

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](mailto:info@sealight.org)

**Web site:** [www.sealight.org](http://www.sealight.org)

**Prayer Porthole**



Please petition the Lord with regard to the following:

- "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and has redeemed His people." (Luke 1:68)
- For M, a seafarer from a Muslim country to be met by Jesus.
- That three Chinese seafarers who heard God's Word will receive it.
- For Ukrainian officer T, whose father and brother died to know life in Jesus.
- For T, a Hindu Indian officer to consider his future and be drawn to the Lord.
- That J., a Filipino mess man, would be called out of a cult and into the Light.
- For W., a Chinese captain to hear from the Lord as he reads God's Word.
- For M, a Christian Filipino seafarer to be effective in his Bible study leading.
- That Chinese third officer, B, would understand the Gospel and meet Jesus.
- For W., a Chinese second officer, to be called to Jesus.
- Ongoing prayer for a new Ministry to seafarers to be established in Halifax.

**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.*

Contributions to 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, please feel free to contact LHM at (604) 988-5084 or email: [info@sealight.org](mailto:info@sealight.org). If you desire to donate on-line, please visit the Mission's secured web site at [www.sealight.org](http://www.sealight.org).

Thank you for considering LHM.



CANADIAN COUNCIL of CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

**Soon to Come:**

**"He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."**

(Rev. 21:6)