



# Lighthouse Beacon

Pointing  
seafarers to  
Christ, the  
Light of  
the world.  
(John 8:12)

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

Spring 2019

## Suicide and Seamen

By Teus Kappers, Chaplain Emeritus

Just like our homes, ships have their own atmosphere. Some are warm and friendly while others are cold and hostile, especially when it comes to sharing the Gospel.

I would like to tell you about an encounter I had, one that was very different from anything I had experienced before or have gone through since. It occurred on an Indian ship named *Kali*.

A large swastika was painted on the ship's bow, something I thought was kind of unusual. But, as the saying goes, "You should not judge a book by its cover." So, neither should I judge a crew by the looks of their ship. However the atmosphere on this ship was bleaker than any I had ever experienced before; it was downright depressing. On further investigation I found out why: one of its crew had committed suicide. This was sad indeed. But, my question was "WHY?"

Upon entering the crew's mess room I suddenly found myself face to face with a large poster of the Hindu goddess Kali. It was the most depressing/evil picture I have ever seen of a god. This was a goddess who had killed many men and whose skulls were draped around her neck like a long shoal. Her foot was standing on the neck of the next victim who was about to become her next trophy. How very depressing!

Appalled, I asked one of the seamen: "Do you worship this god? You should tear this picture off of the wall and dump it in the deepest ocean." It was probably the worst thing I could have said and, in response, the crew then told me to leave their ship.

Suicide is not only a problem in our society but also

among ships' crews. Fifteen percent of all deaths among seafarers are the result of suicide, according to a 2017 report by UK P&I Club. In terms of the causes, young age, isolation and social media were listed. Social media contributed because of the increased availability of news about problems at home.

I personally believe there is another cause of suicide among seafarers: guilt. The lifestyle of some crew members will lead to depression and they are afraid to face families when returning home. This is another reason why the ministry of LHM is so important. As a Mission we can proclaim that Jesus Christ can wash away all of our sins and that the Lord will remember our sins no more. (Jeremiah 31:34)





## The Blessing of Fellowship

—by Carl Dorozio, Chaplain

*“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:41-42)*

The Book of Acts, chapter 2, records the growth of the early church and notes how they grew together. The Believers were taught, celebrated communion, prayed and entered into all aspects of fellowship...together. It is a privilege to meet with other Christians and experience this grace that God gives to His people.

Imagine being away from your church family for nine months. Christian, a Romanian 2nd engineer whom I met in January, lives this way. He said that he could only pray with his wife over the internet and, as the sole believer on his ship, was discouraged. This young fellow had

and a half we were able to hold an impromptu Bible study with some of the engine crew who were on a break. Later, when only the two of us were together, I prayed for him. This engineer expressed his appreciation and what it meant to him to be with another Christian and pray.

We should never take for granted the privilege of fellowship that God gives His people and remember in prayer the sailors who, although desiring it, miss this blessing for a good portion of the year.

**“In His Name the nations will put their hope.”** (Matthew 12:21)

## Meeting Brother Elmer

- by Allen Jones, LHM Director and Volunteer



Carl and Christian on Board

On a recent morning I planned to visit a terminal where two ships were berthed. I could not board the first vessel because the gangway was up and there was nobody in sight on the deck. God directs our steps, I believe, so I went to the second ship.

After boarding the second vessel, I was directed to the crew's mess room. There I met Elmer, a Filipino second engineer. Following some initial conversation I asked him how he would get to heaven (when he died). His response showed me that he was a Christian. We were both very happy to meet each other and had an encouraging time of fellowship together. Elmer belongs to a Baptist church in the Philippines where he sometimes gives sermons. Aboard his ship, Elmer is a faithful witness for the Lord and holds a Bible study every Sunday.

a desire to share his faith with his crew, to bring them together to read God's word and pray. One day prior to our meeting, Christian had prayed with his wife about his discouragement and God then connected the seafarer and me in a marvelous way. After speaking with each other for an hour

In order to facilitate Elmer's maritime ministry, I left him briefly in order to obtain for him a set of Bible studies from the Seafarers Centre. However, when I arrived back at his ship I discovered that



he was busy so I left the booklets aboard. As I was leaving, though, I heard a call from the deck; Elmer had received the studies and, as a result, had left his work to come and see me again. The picture (below) shows us on deck with Elmer holding the Bible study material.

I thank God that He directed my meeting with Elmer. Such encounters encourage Christian seafarers in the knowledge that God has not forgotten them and is with them even in spiritually adverse circumstances. Meetings like this also give Lighthouse workers encouragement to know that God leads us to those who are His or of His calling.



Darian (left) with On-Board Bible Study

have been actively participating in an ushering ministry in our church.

At one point in time, while I was on vacation from my sea-life, I heard that my friend who was a second officer died because of heart attack. After hearing of this incident I wasn't able to sleep and realized that because I know the Truth as a Christian I have a responsibility to share the Gospel with every soul. I need to share the Word of God which reveals that only Jesus can save.

By the grace of God, from 2015 until now I have been conducting Bible studies aboard ships, even though some of the crew have been against it.

Prov.11:30 (KJV) "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise"

I give all the glory to God.



### Seafarer Darian's Testimony

My father accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior in 1992. That same year I also received the Lord Jesus as my Savior. I was only 11years old at the time. From that time onward my father brought us, his family, to church to attend the services and helped me grow as a Christian. Prior to my starting my ministry onboard ships, from 2014 until now I

## Van Needed

The Fraser Surrey Centre van which is used to transport seafarers to and from the Centre is showing some serious signs of aging!

If you have or know of a 6 passenger van in very good condition that could be donated to Lighthouse, please contact the Mission at [info@sealight.org](mailto:info@sealight.org) or 604-988-5084.



**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  
**Email:** info@sealight.org  
**Web site:** www.sealight.org  
 Lighthouse Harbour

**Prayer Porthole**



Please praise/petition the Lord with regard to the following:

- “Let the Name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.” (Ps. 113:2)
- That a Punjabi-Indian deck seafarer would *hear* the Word shared with him.
- For a Christian Filipino second officer to be a bold witness for the Lord.
- That a Filipino deck seafarer would be comforted in his father’s illness.
- For a Christian Romanian engineer to be encouraged and share the Word.
- That an Indonesian second officer would know Jesus truly and fully.
- For a Swiss Christian seafarer to be bold witness for Jesus aboard his ship.
- That a Burmese electrician would read John’s Gospel and come to Jesus.
- For the new seafarers ministry in Halifax to move forward for Jesus.

**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. 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.



**Soon to Come:**

“To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.”

(Rev. 21:6)