



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 2021

Helping Those in Need

- by Bill Wong
Board President and Chaplain

In late October last year, I received an email from a Sri Lankan seafarer asking for financial help to pay for his medical treatments. I first met this seafarer, through one of the Mission's other chaplains, Paul, in July 2017, at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) where he was being treated for a serious illness.

Apparently, the seafarer had become very ill while his ship was en route to Vancouver and upon arriving he was hospitalized. The seafarer was diagnosed with leukemia and needed treatment for a couple of months before he could return home to continue his treatments. With no close relations in Vancouver, and the ship's agent only occasionally checking on him, the Mission decided to befriend him while he was here.

For the first month, the seafarer was confined to his room at VGH for medical treatments. I was able to visit him every few days to see how he was doing, and when Paul returned from being away, he and I took turns visiting the seafarer. Later, he was moved to a residence for cancer outpatients and then to a hotel until the ship's agent was able to get a flight for him to fly home.

During his time here in Vancouver, we tried to support and encourage the seafarer as best as we could. We would occasionally surprise him with some Sri Lankan food. It was a blessing that His English was fairly good and, thus, we were able to communicate with him quite well, sharing the Good News with him whenever possible. We gave him a Sinhalese Gospel of

John and some other Gospel materials in his language. Later, we discovered that the family of another patient in the same room as the seafarer were Christians. They had given him a Bible to read and were able to witness to him as well. We could see God's hand in all of this.

After the seafarer flew back to Sri Lanka, we kept in touch with him to see how he was doing. The last time that he responded to our emails was in July of 2019. At that time, he said he was receiving medical treatments paid for by his company's insurance. After that email, we did not hear from him until October of last year.

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In October the seafarer made an urgent appeal to us for financial assistance to pay for one of his monthly treatment injections. He had exhausted all other resources, including that from the insurance company. Desperate, he told us the monthly injections were expensive by Sri Lankan standards, not covered by any public funding and, therefore, needed to be purchased from a western pharmacy. At the time he contacted

us, he had six injections remaining for his treatment to be completed.

After praying about his situation we decided to provide the seafarer with some assistance. When he received it, he was *extremely* grateful, overwhelmed by the generosity. To substantiate the legitimacy of his treatment, he provided verification for the support that he received.



Bill with Sri Lankan seafarer

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“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

(Romans 10:17)

(cont'd from page 1)

By the time the seafarer received the funds and bought his medication, we were entering the Christmas season. Paul and I were able to share the Christmas story with him and he was very receptive to it. When he contacted us in October, he was very despondent and the generosity demonstrated by our gift may have been a turning point in his spiritual journey. We continue to pray for this seafarer – not only for physical healing but also spiritual healing – that he may come to know Jesus Christ as his Saviour and Lord.

Although Lighthouse Harbour Ministries (LHM) has not received many requests for physical/monetary assistance from seafarers, it does have a benevolence policy in place to deal with such requests. The benevolence policy also applies to seafarer’s families and port chaplains who minister the Gospel to seafarers. A specific Seafarers’ Relief Fund has also recently been established by the LHM Board, based on the terms and conditions of the benevolence policy.

The Biblical basis for this Relief Fund is found in Leviticus 19:18, which says, “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Our compassionate God wants us to be compassionate people – to willingly and joyfully share the blessings that God has bestowed on us with those who are less fortunate than us.

We are to be a channel of blessing to the poor, the strangers, and the needy.

Precarious Choice

By Ray Hanna, Senior Chaplain

I had an interesting conversation with ‘A,’ a friendly 25-year-old 3rd officer from the Ukraine. During our exchange on the deck of his ship, I passed on to him a Russian Gospel of John (many Ukrainian seafarers can read Russian). He thanked me, said that it was very good and would give it to one of the others, claiming that he did not need this item because he was a Buddhist and found great peace in meditating. I asked A if he was raised a Buddhist. He responded by telling me that his

mother believed in nothing and that he got into Buddhism when he started taking psychedelic (magic) mushrooms. This experience opened up his mind, A said, to much understanding but that he now does meditation for the same effect. My heart ached for this dear young man who is involved in some very dangerous spiritual things. To many of us, Buddhism might conjure up an image of a smiling, big bellied, harmless fellow. However, a few years ago, when on a tour in China, I saw many other carved images from this religion that were so scary that



Sample of Buddhist art

they would cause nightmares.

I asked A if he was 100% sure of what would happen to him when

he died and he replied by claiming that he was going to be reincarnated into something better, now that he was a better person. To this, I answered by telling him that the Bible says that we are all sinners and that world news proves this to be true. A agreed that the world was full of bad people but he thought he wasn’t one of them. I left A’s ship with a heavy heart for him and prayed that the Holy Spirit would open his eyes to his true condition and need of a Saviour. However, I was also thankful for our Divine meeting where I had had an opportunity to share the Gospel with him.

N.B.: After Ray’s visit, one of Lighthouse’s other chaplains also had a chance to visit A and further share with him. It seemed to this chaplain that this young man was not completely closed to the Gospel. There is still hope for A! Please pray for him.



Serving the Lord Together

—by Carl Dorozio, Chaplain

One of the joys of ministering with LHM Vancouver is serving the Lord together with other chaplains. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:8 that “he who plants and he who waters are one in purpose”. The following seafarer encounter is an example of this truth.

Chaplain Emeritus, Teus Kappers and I first met Albert*, a Filipino able seaman on an evening at our Fraser-Surrey seaman’s centre. He had come with two other crew members and enjoyed shopping in our store and relaxing. Later in the evening, we sat down together, I played my ukulele and we sang. As Teus and I were sharing the Gospel with one of Albert’s crew members Albert listened to our conversation and, at times, added his comments. He read his Bible and even kept a notebook of verses and things he was learning. This seafarer was fairly knowledgeable about the Bible’s teaching but, from his comments, not sure of his salvation; there seemed to be something in the way. Each man took a New Testament and left very thankful for the evening.

The following day I was able to visit Albert aboard his ship and speak more to him while he was on his duty watch. During the visit I gave him an *In Touch Ministries* MP3 audio player in Tagalog/English which he was very happy to receive. Each player has an audio Bible as well as messages about salvation and Christian growth recorded on it.

That evening Albert came back to our centre and had a great evening with Senior Chaplain, Ray Hanna, and his wife Ruth. He let them know that he had been listening to the audio player and had started crying in his cabin... God was convicting him of sin in his life. Ray & Ruth led the young seafarer in prayer as he confessed his sins, repented and trusted in the Lord Jesus. He told them that when he first learned that his ship was coming to Vancouver he was excited, but not sure why. Albert then added that he had since discovered why.

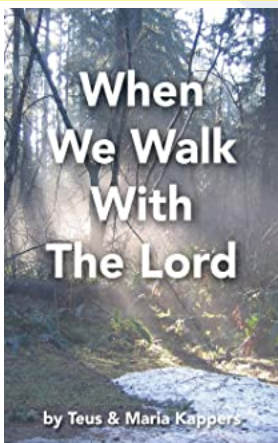
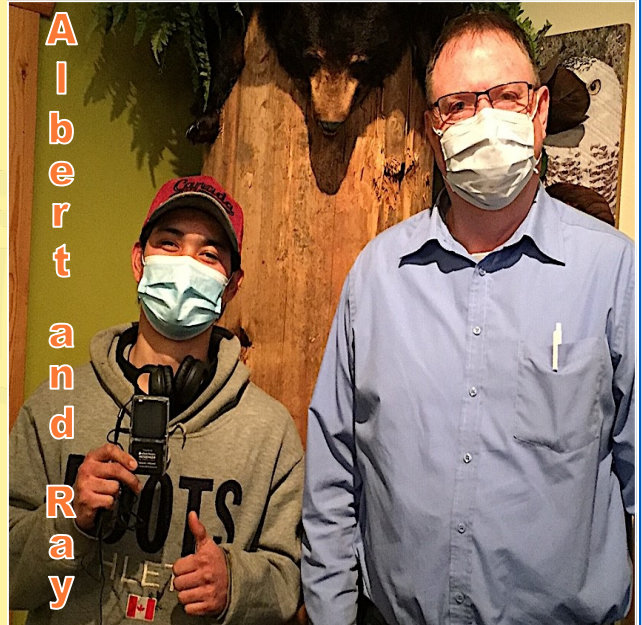
“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

(1 Corinthians 1:18)

The seafarer’s ship moved from the Fraser Surrey Docks to a terminal in North Vancouver. Joel, Paul, Ray and I visited Albert there at different times to encourage him in his walk with God. It was a joy to work together for the Lord in Albert’s life.

“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow” (1 Corinthians 3:7)

*Name changed for privacy purposes.



When We Walk with the Lord

- New Book by Teus and Maria Kappers

Recently, Chaplain Emeritus, Teus Kappers and his wife, Maria have completed an inspiring account of their faith journeys—as single people and as a couple. *When We Walk with the Lord* is an uplifting testimony showing God’s blessing for obedience to Him.

To order your copy, please contact LHM and include \$10 to cover shipping and handling.



Prayer Porthole



"I call on You, O God, for You will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer."

(Ps. 17:6)

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

- Thank the Lord for many, many Chinese seafarers who have heard the Gospel.
- That an Indian bosun, touched by the Word of God, would accept Jesus.
- For the salvation of a Chinese second officer who is considering the Gospel.
- For a Chinese Christian chief officer to boldly share Jesus with his crew.
- For an Indian chief officer, who believes all religions are equal, to see Jesus.
- For a Georgian (the country) deck seafarer to be drawn by the Lord to Jesus.
- That a friendly Ukrainian third officer will find life through faith in Jesus.
- For an Indian deck seafarer who was very open to the Gospel to accept it.
- For a Filipino seafarer who has asked for prayer to pass a COVID-19 test.
- For a Christ-centered leader to be raised up for the eastern Canada ministries.

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

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2021 Virtual Spring Luncheon

Please join us for the second (hopefully last *virtual* edition!) *virtual* Spring Luncheon on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 12 p.m. via Zoom video communication. Please visit www.sealight.org for the link to the event.



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, PayPal
- Automatic debits to bank account
- E-transfer: info@sealight.org
- 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.

Thank you for considering LHM.



Soon to Come:

"No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will serve Him." (Rev. 22:3)