



LIGHTHOUSE BEACON

Gospel Light for Seafarers John 8:12

Spring 2024 News

Divine Appointments and Purpose

How do we pray for our loved ones? If you are like me, prayer is usually offered for our family members to have or experience good health, good employment, good friends, good home, safety and other related things. But, if we stop and reflect on life, doesn't God often use 'bad' things to bring us to Him?

If our relationship with the Lord is strengthened through difficulties, how then *should* we pray? Should we be petitioning the Lord for bad things to happen to our families? Well, I have come to the conclusion that I should continue to pray for good things for my family, but then add "But Your will be done!" I should then follow this by asking the Lord to help me accept His will; because God's will is always best.

What does all of this have to do with Seafarers? The same scenario has application for them. For example, smooth seas might make them forget about God, causing them to credit themselves with life's successes or think that they don't need God. One officer told me that he had sailed with a captain who was a very vocal atheist, but when their ship experienced a terrible storm, on the bridge of the vessel, the captain got down on his knees and prayed to God!

So, do I pray for trials for sailors? No, but I pray that the Lord would use whatever means He determines appropriate to draw them to Himself. For instance, when I pray for crew members that have sailed from our port, I pray that God would use their surroundings (e.g. nighttime stars, sunsets, sunrises and storms) to cause them to think about God and maybe consider the Word of God that they heard in Vancouver. I also pray that

God, in His omniscience, would prepare crew members on ships coming to Vancouver, and for us at Lighthouse, so that the seed of the Word of God would find good ground and bring forth much fruit.

Recently, as I was going into a port area I noticed some men standing nearby. It turns out that they were seafarers who had been ashore to do some shopping and were on their way back to their ship. They accepted my offer to provide them with transportation and, during our trip, I found out that one of them was their ship's captain. Recognizing him, I asked if I had given him a ride back to his vessel on his last voyage to the Vancouver area. He responded affirmatively and then stated "I will come to the seafarers mission tomorrow night and find out what it is about!" He kept his promise. In the Lord's work, we don't believe in coincidences; we know that the Lord has His eye on this Captain and on every person. Our heavenly Father is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance 2 Peter 3:9.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this work of the Lord in the port of Vancouver.



- Ray Hanna, Senior Chaplain



God Makes a Way — Allen Jones, Board Secretary and Ship visitor

As I started a day of ship visits, a fellow Lighthouse chaplain and I prayed and asked God to lead the day's activities.

The ship I chose to visit first was due to leave in two hours. As I drove to the terminal where the ship was berthed, I saw that the road was blocked by a crossing train and, as a result, wondered if God was leading me in another direction. However, the train did pass by, and I was able to proceed to the terminal gate.

At the gate, I learned that the ship's gangway was up and this meant that I could not board while it was in this position. In essence, another problem had surfaced. Nevertheless, I proceeded to the vessel and, upon arriving at the nearby dock, noticed a few seafarers working close to the bow. I was able to converse with one of them and learned that he wasn't able to lower the gangway in accordance with what I had hoped for. So, we began a conversation while I remained on the dock and he on the ship.

I explained that I was from the Lighthouse (ministry), and he agreed to lower a bucket so that I could give him Gospel materials and a few toques for the crew. He said that the ship was headed to Japan and that he had four months left on his contract. I offered to pray and he asked that this be done for the safety of his ship. We then prayed for the ship's safety, for the skill of the crew, that God would use the material they received to lead them to faith in Christ, for the safety of the crew's families and safe return home for the crew members when their contracts were complete. Considering the final outcome of the ship visit, I believe that God led me through barriers to meet that crew, just in time for His glory.

“On this mountain He will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples...He will swallow up death forever.” (Isaiah 25:7-8)

Blessings with a Chinese Crew — Carl Dorozio, Chaplain

A few days before Christmas 2023 a ship with a Chinese crew aboard was at berth at the Fraser Surrey Docks. This vessel stayed longer than many do, and I was able to invite a friend from my Church's Mandarin Fellowship, who previously worked as an engineer on a ship, to join me in visiting the crew.

After boarding the ship, we encountered a friendly third officer who spoke English well. However, he informed me that the crew was tired and not going to come to the seafarers centre. Although this reluctance to visit is quite common, after my friend explained to him in Mandarin more about the centre, six seafarers ended up coming with us. They had a great time and engaged very well. At the Centre, I played music, engaged in parlour games with the fellows, laughed and then shared with them the story of the Prodigal Son. My friend also spoke to the seafarers in Mandarin for quite a while. They left with Christmas gifts; very thankful and happy.

A change to the ship's scheduled movement from berth enabled my friend to invite the crew to attend church. Our Mandarin Fellowship was having a special outreach which included four baptisms followed by lunch. Four seafarers, including the Third Officer we had met initially, attended the event and spent a good

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portion of the day with our Mandarin Fellowship. They heard four testimonies, including the story of an elderly Chinese couple who had recently come to faith and been baptized. The Third Officer later sent me a message regarding how happy he was to have been present.

When I showed up at the ship again, on Boxing Day, the Third Officer almost hugged me. He had heard a small amount about Jesus from his grandmother, but had not read anything about the Lord. He now has a Bible as well as a Mandarin language MP3 player. Recently, he let me know that he is listening to the player every day.

The Lord provided many blessings in our interaction with the Chinese crew. Praise the Lord.



WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?

– Bill Wong, Board President and Ship Visitor

Where will you spend eternity? This is one of the most important questions that I could ask a seafarer (or anyone else). Many of the seafarers tell me that they haven't given this question much thought, but "hope" to be in heaven.

Seafarers who claim to be "religious" believe they're on their way to heaven, but rarely mention the name of Jesus in support of this claim. Instead, they say they trust their religious works and rituals, such as praying or keeping God's commandments, to enable them to be heaven bound. While these are good on their own, they will not qualify a person to enter heaven. Tragically, many of the seafarers don't see the glory and sufficiency of Christ Jesus, blinded from the truth of the Gospel by teachings and traditions of their churches, which are not Bible-based.

A case in point was when I recently met an engineer on a ship at the Viterra Cascadia terminal. As we chatted, he declared that he was proud to be of a certain Christian tradition and

would never turn from it. He had been taught from an early age to trust and rely on church clergy and teachings and his own good works for salvation. But he respectfully listened to me as I shared my Christian faith. As we parted ways, I silently prayed for him.

As Christians, it's not our goal to "convince" non-believing seafarers that "our way" is the right way. Lighthouse Harbour Ministries strives to point them to the Word of God, which is the supreme authority in all matters of faith. The problem with the engineer mentioned above (and many other "religious" seafarers) is that he cannot see the truth, and I would never scold a blind man for not seeing.

There is light, but the engineer needs more than light; he needs sight. *"...unless one is born again, he cannot see...."* He may have perfect vision physically, but spiritually he's blind. *"They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts"* (Eph. 4:18).

It takes more than preaching for someone to be saved; it takes the work of the Holy Spirit. As chaplains/ship visitors, we need to pray, "God, please open the eyes of those who have been blinded, so that they can *'see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God'* (2 Cor. 4:4)."

May God be glorified as He reveals Himself to those who seek the truth!



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:

- ✂ Praise the Lord for providing His people and inheritance in the kingdom of light. (Col. 1:12)
- ✂ For the Lord to bring a young, very spiritually keen, Filipino second officer to Jesus.
- ✂ That an Indian steward, who said he wanted to become a Christian, to meet Jesus.
- ✂ For seafarers from a restricted access nation to read the Gospel materials they received.
- ✂ For the Lord to raise up more workers for His harvest field among seafarers. (Matt. 9:38)

Early Notice:
2024 Lighthouse Spring Breakfast
 Saturday, April 20, 2024 8:30 a.m., Bethany Baptist Church
 To reserve: 604-988-5084; info@sealight.org

C O N T A C T U S

<p>Lighthouse Harbour Ministries</p> <p>Our Mission To love and honour God by serving the seafarers of the world in Word and deed.</p> <p>Senior Port Chaplain Ray Hanna</p> <p>Chaplain Emeritus Teus Kappers</p>	<p>Contact 1 - 260 E. Esplanade North Vancouver B.C. Canada V7L 1A3</p> <p>Phone: (604) 988-5084</p> <p>Email: info@sealight.org Web site: www.sealight.org</p> <p>FB: Lighthouse Harbour</p> 
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Methods of supporting the Lord's work at Lighthouse:

- Cash, cheque, credit card, PayPal
- Automatic debits to bank account
- e-transfers. Please send to: info@sealight.org
- Planned giving through wills, charitable bequests

To give on-line via LHM's secured web site: www.sealight.org.

Thank you for considering LHM.

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.

**Soon to
Come:**

***"I am the Alpha
and the Omega,
the First and the
Last,
the Beginning and
the End."***

(Rev. 22:13)