



# 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

Summer 2019

## Happy But Still in Prison.

By Teus Kappers, Chaplain Emeritus

Although I had not yet been on the M/V Espirito Santo (Holy Spirit), because of its unusual name I was excited about what the Lord had in store for me on this ship.

Once aboard I met a very gloomy looking captain. "Can I be of any help to you today? I am from the Lighthouse Seamen's Centre," I said.

"No, you cannot [help me]," he abruptly answered.

"What's wrong then? If you don't tell me, for sure I cannot help you," I responded.

Speaking in Portuguese, the captain then gave orders to an officer who then took me mid-ship. There, he unbolted the door to a heavy metal enclosure and then asked, "You are sure you want to help?"

Although there is the saying, "curiosity kills the cat," I am not a cat; but I was curious! However, I then became a bit scared as the officer pushed me into a dark area and bolted a door behind me. In complete darkness I sensed the presence of other bodies in a very stinky place and could hear another language being spoken. I was actually sharing the space with four African stowaways who had sneaked onto the ship in Mombassa, Kenya. Possessing little hope for a positive future they had taken the potentially life-ending risk of illegally boarding a ship.



With stowaways aboard, the ship's reception in various ports, including Vancouver, was very poor and their future looked bleak indeed! But what could I do? I was only a missionary!

Before leaving the ship, I promised the men and the ship's captain that I would make a phone call for the fugitives. Although, in truth, I was happy to depart from the ship and return to Canadian soil, I also did want to keep my promise.

I called an immigration lawyer who was keen to hear my story. In the end, it turned out that, escorted by police and just a few minutes before the ship was to sail for Brazil, the four Africans were sent to a local prison. Amazingly, however, everyone was happy!

Later, I went to see the four former stowaways in order to share the Gospel

with them. When we met I was very surprised to see four incredibly happy fellows. Never having had it so good in their lives, they said, they could choose what to eat, whether or not to read the newspaper or watch television etc. (prison Canadian style). Yet, I had to put a damper on these four very grateful men by saying, "You may be free and happy but you are still in prison."

The story of the stowaways can be likened to the lives of many people who are very comfortable but still remain prisoners of sin." But when the Son (Jesus) sets you free you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)



## Nathaniel

- by Allen Jones, LHM Director and Volunteer

While visiting ships recently, I met seafarers from China, Philippines, Ukraine and India. Some had decades of seafaring experience and some just a few months. However all are bound by contracts and challenging social and economic circumstances. They talk about “going out” – the time when they can leave their ship for a few hours. The crew really appreciate friendly Lighthouse ship visitors, handmade toques and transportation, etc. But most of all they need to know the Saviour, Jesus Christ.

While onboard one ship I met a young Filipino *ordinary seaman*, Nathaniel. He is working on only his second contract and his uncle is also employed aboard the same ship. We had a casual conversation about snow, the unfamiliar cool breeze and his shift (six hours on/off). He'll be twenty three years old this year and has a girlfriend but, although he is saving money, must care for his parents before he marries.

I talked with Nathaniel about Jesus' sacrifice for our sin and God's gift of eternal life that cannot be earned. The seafarer recognize that Jesus died for us, but I emphasized the fact that Jesus died for *him* and that He would have done this even if Nathaniel had been the only person in the world. I also showed him the Scriptures John 1:1 and Hebrews 1:8 in a Tagalog New Testament and left it with him, although he did have a Bible that he had received from his mother and reads it.

In prayer, we thanked God for our meeting, asked Him to show Nathaniel the Truth and lead him in the path of righteousness for His Name's sake. I pray that God

“Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?”

(1 Cor. 1:20)

will work in Nathaniel's life and that he will bear much fruit for His kingdom.

## Pressure to Sin

- by Carl Dorozio - Chaplain

“But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.” (Genesis 39:12)

Paul told Timothy to “flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness.” (2 Tim. 2:22) When temptation comes Scripture tells us to run away; don't let the thought or opportunity linger. In Genesis 39:12 we learn that Joseph fled when tempted by Potiphar's wife but, as a slave, he could not go far.

I had an opportunity to visit a ship three times during its stay in Vancouver. On my first visit I met a young Christian cadet who introduced me to a number of his crew mates. It was a blessing to be able

to share the Gospel then and, also, on follow up visits. The ship's captain even permitted a Bible study to be held one evening.

Each time I left him, the young cadet shared with me about the pressure to sin that he felt. Whether it was alcohol or sexual-purity related sins, he felt a strong push to *give in* from some of the crew. He also had questions and we were able to pray together each time. Like Joseph, this cadet can't leave his environment, except perhaps briefly in



Allen with O/S Nathaniel



port, during his nine month contract and the pressure to sin will likely remain while he is aboard.

God promises to always provide a way out of temptations (1 Cor. 10:13) and He brings people into our lives to minister spiritual strength to us. As Lighthouse chaplains and Brothers and Sisters in



Joseph and Potiphar's Wife, Simone Contarini, Italian, about 1640 (Photo Credit: AlainTruong.com)

Christ, we can encourage each other to remain faithful and, also, as best as possible remove ourselves from opportunities to sin even in restrictive environments. In addition we can pray for each other. With regard to the young sailor, when his ship reaches its next port in Australia two Christians will, Lord willing, visit him in accordance with our request.

The cadet and I continue to keep in touch by Messenger. Please remember the Christian sailors and the temptations they face. There are not a lot of places to physically run to on a ship.

## Restricted from Jesus

- by Bill Wong, LHM Director and Volunteer

In visiting ships, Paul (chaplain), and I try to *keep a lookout* for ships with seafarers on board from restricted-access places. Recently, we visited two ships that met our criteria: one with Indonesians and the other with Turkish seafarers aboard. However, because it was during the Muslim *fasting* month of Ramadan, we wondered if our contacts would be disrupted because the crews might be avoiding meal breaks.

By faith, we pressed on and went first to the Indonesian crewed ship. Onboard we met a third officer who told us of his desire to retire from sea-life and start a pig farm. This took us aback because of the Muslim restriction against eating pork. However, his plan made sense to us later when he identified himself as *Christian* and said he lives in a predominantly Christian area of Indonesia.

We also spent time with the third officer discussing essential elements of faith regarding salvation and the assurance of it. In addition, we encouraged him to demonstrate God's love to his crew mates. Before leaving our Christian Brother, we prayed that God would bless him and his family and give him boldness to share his faith.

Next, we visited the Turkish manned ship and met several of the crew who were having tea and snacks in the lounge area. With the exception of the mess man who helped translate our conversations, communication with the crew was challenging because of language issues. However, our offers of hand-knitted toques seemed to help the crew to *warm up* to us. Wonderfully, we were able to give them Turkish language Gospels of John and other Christian literature to read. They willingly accepted the material and even started reading it while we were there. One older man, in particular, repeatedly asked for some of the Turkish Gospel materials we brought. Our hope and prayer is that the Holy Spirit will work in these Turkish seafarers' lives to bring them to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.





## Avoiding the Wreckage - *Words at the Aft*—by Ray Hanna, Senior Chaplain

Recently, a ship left Vancouver bound for China. Depending on climatic conditions, its voyage will take two or three weeks. The vessel is two hundred and twenty-five metres long (over two football fields long) and thirteen meters (the height of a four story apartment building) of it are below the water line. The cargo weighed seventy three thousand tons (about the same weight as 29,000 Ford F150's) and the ship is manned by twenty one seafarers. I am amazed by the ship's physical details, but more so by the fact that it is directed by a little steel flap, the rudder, located at the back of the ship. Though the rudder is only one to two percent of the ship's length, without it the ship has no directional control, would be helplessly subject to the winds and waves and, ultimately, wreckage.

The Bible is the map that guides us away from making wrecks of our lives. **Psalm 119:105** says "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." God has given us direction regarding the abundant life: In **John 10:10** Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." However, we cannot live life *our* way and expect that we will have an abundant life; instead we must follow God's way.

I tell the sailors that the greatest thing I can do for them is to encourage them to read, believe and obey the Bible. Without the solid, unchangeable Word of God, every new fad, idea or desire will lead us off course, making wrecks of our lives. If we read God's Word for even ten or fifteen minutes a day, this effort will help to keep us on course for a good life and lead us to the harbour of safety for our soul through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### 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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Lighthouse Harbour

### 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.*

## Prayer Porthole



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

"Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD; O Lord, hear my voice." (Ps. 130:1-2)

- For the encouragement of a Swiss Christian seafarer.
- That a Ukrainian second officer would be confronted with God's presence.
- For the Lord to bless, use and protect a faithful Filipino Christian officer.
- For a Ukrainian deck cadet to be drawn to Jesus through John's Gospel.
- That two Japanese deck seafarers would respond to the truth in Jesus.
- For a Filipino captain to move forward beyond curiosity to faith in Jesus.
- That a Pakistani chief cook would see the truth in Jesus.
- For guidance for LHM's Board and more directors and volunteers.

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 who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be My Son."

(Rev. 21:7)