



LIGHTHOUSE BEACON

Gospel Light for Seafarers John 8:12

Summer 2023 News

June 25 – Day of the Seafarer

The International Maritime Organization has designated June 25 to be the Day of the Seafarer. It is an annual celebration “to recognize the unique contribution made by seafarers from all over the world...” (<https://www.imo.org/en/About/Events/Pages/Day-of-the-Seafarer-2023.aspx>) Lighthouse Harbour Ministries celebrated the special day with activities at both the North Vancouver and Fraser Surrey seafarers centres.

Through the generosity of many of our ministry partners, resources were provided to enable 150 gift bags to be assembled for distribution among the seafarers. Among many items included in the bags, a copy of the Gospel of John, Good News from God, was the most significant

At the Fraser Surrey seafarers centre, twelve crew members from two ships visited.

During their stay, they played basketball and enjoyed pizza, strawberries and ice cream. They also heard about the Lamb that Abraham prophesied about and John the Baptist pointed out when he saw Jesus.



In North Vancouver, approximately thirty crew attended the Centre where they were warmly welcomed and partook of special refreshments. Many of the seafarers were also transported to nearby Lynn Canyon where they saw the beauty of God’s creation. While there, many “selfies” were taken on their cell phones and laughter expressed. In response to their surroundings, I heard “Wow” exclaimed many times from the fellows. A trip such as this one is a sort of *micro-vacation* for them.

On a night of high activity, such as June 25 this year, it is not always easy to share the Word of God with the sailors, but we ‘sow the seed’ wherever we can. Several of the seafarers that were met have now joined me on Facebook, a platform which can be used to encourage them, answer their questions, pray for them and stay in touch.

Although all of the gift bags were not given out on June 25, what remains will, Lord willing, be distributed in the coming days. I don’t think the *Day of the Seafarer 2023* will soon be forgotten by the crew we met.

Thanks to all who helped make this special day happen.

1 Corinthians 3:6: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”

By Ray Hanna—Senior Chaplain



LATE NIGHT...BLESSING

It had been a busy night at the Seafarers Centre in North Vancouver and was getting late. But, nevertheless, someone at a shipping terminal called twice to request that a Filipino sailor be picked up. Inside myself I moaned, "The driver is still busy with other crew, couldn't this one fellow just come the next day instead?" I didn't realize that this crew member was somewhat desperate to come to the Centre.

After meeting the sailor, however, I learned that he was sad because his father had recently died. In addition, he needed to replace his broken laptop mouse and, also, wanted a headlamp for his work. Although he was prepared to go out and purchase these items, the shops that would be suitable for his needs were already closed. To make matters worse, his ship was leaving early the next day and, therefore, he would not have any further opportunity for shore leave.

Joel (left) with Seafarer



Our driver managed to look in his car and in the Centre to find the items the sailor needed. This surprised the crew member, and he was very grateful to immediately receive the needed items (and free of charge!).

This late-night encounter with the needy sailor provided an opportunity to speak with him about his sadness, due to the loss of his father,

and how he could receive joy and comfort in God! It also provided me with a chance to address some of this mariner's false notions about prayer. In addition to responding to them, I gave him a Bible and marked Matthew 6 so that he could read about Jesus' teaching on prayer. He accepted my explanation about the need to pray in Jesus' Name and the appropriateness of addressing our Father in heaven who 'knows and cares' for all of our needs. He promised that, as his ship sailed from Vancouver, he would read the Bible to discover more truth!

Please pray for this sailor: that through his "openness" and gratitude for the ministry he received at the seafarers' centre, he will come to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By Joel Palit-ang, Chaplain/Office Assistant

“Make it
your
ambition to
lead a
quiet
life, to
mind
your
own
business
and to
work
with
your
hands,
just as
we told
you.”

(1 Thess. 4:11)



Helping Seafarers with the Word

“Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.” (Acts 8:30-31)

I often ask seafarers about their engagement with the Bible. For example, I may inquire as to whether or not they have ever read a portion of the Bible or are currently reading their own Bible. The answer I repeatedly receive is: “I have a Bible, but do not regularly read it”. With this in mind, I emphasize to seafarers the importance of reading the Bible daily and, to encourage this, have initiated a program for them in accord with the above shown Scripture passage from Acts.

Recently, I started a reading and discussion group for seafarers based on the Gospel of John. At this

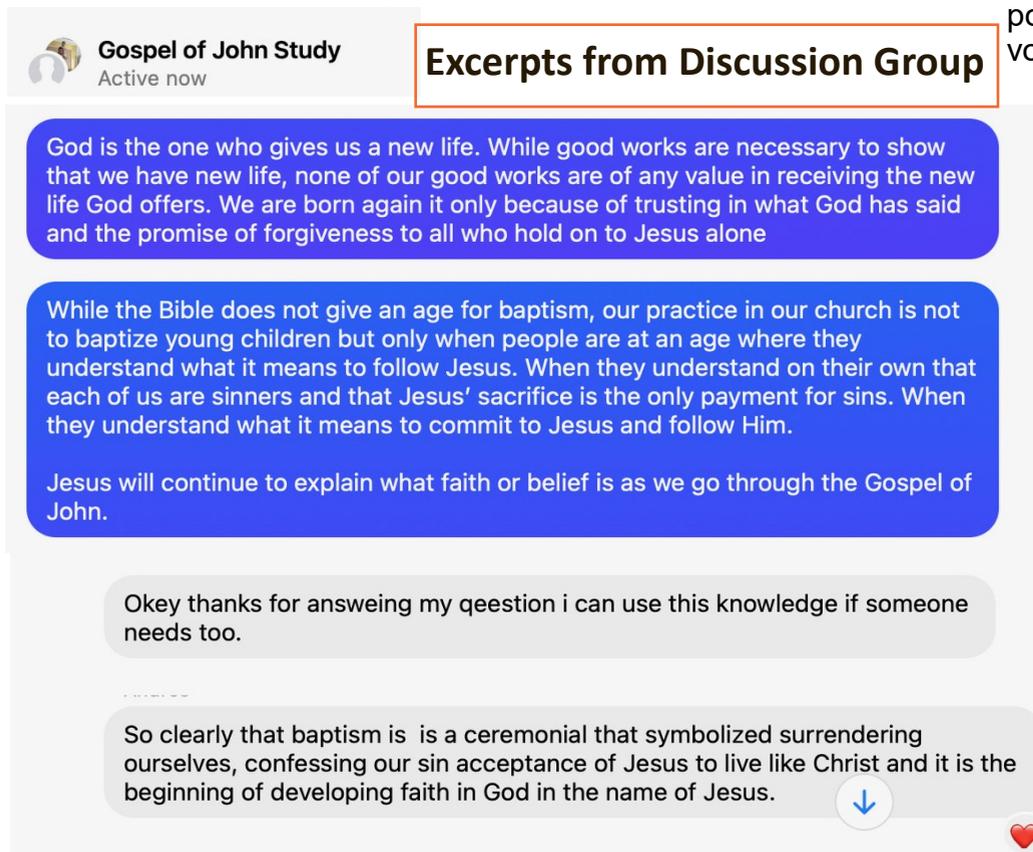
point, there are 21 sailors involved and, while most are from the Philippines, there are others from China, Myanmar, Romania and Ukraine.

The platform used for the group is Facebook Messenger. Each week I post a new passage from John’s Gospel, make comments and, also, pose questions. The goal of the discussion group is for the attendees to work their way through the entire Gospel and for them to learn not only what John writes but, also, what it means to read and study a whole Biblical

book. My involvement in this project has required that I also go through a learning process. For example, I have discovered that, for seafarers from different cultures, the idea of a Bible study discussion group is not a familiar, comfortable concept for them. I have, as a result, needed to adjust my approach and now guide the group more than I had done initially, while still answering questions raised as we progress through the Gospel.

My involvement in this program has been a good, although at times challenging, experience so far. For God’s Kingdom, though, it is worth the effort! Your prayers regarding this venture would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

By Carl Dorozio—Chaplain





“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 new birth into a living hope through Jesus’ resurrection.” (1 Peter 1:3)
- ✂ For a Chinese captain who is searching for truth about God.
- ✂ A Bangladeshi seafarer—his family’s harsh reaction to his interest in the Gospel.
- ✂ That a Burmese captain’s openness to God’s Word would bring him to Jesus.
- ✂ For Carl Dorozio’s discussion group (see p. 3) on John’s Gospel to be fruitful for Jesus.

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

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Teus Kappers

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Canadian Centre for
Christian Charities
ACCREDITED MEMBER

Cookie Help Needed:

If you are a baker, Lighthouse needs cookies (biscuits) for seafarers at the Centres. So if you are willing to bake cookies for this purpose, please contact the Ministry (details above).

Contributions to the Lord’s work at Lighthouse Harbour Ministries can be made by:

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

For on-line giving, please visit LHM’s secured web site:
www.sealight.org.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Ministry. 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:

**“My reward
is with Me.”**

(Rev. 22:12)