

THE BEACON



a newsletter from Lighthouse Harbour Ministries Vancouver

Fall 2024

Listening to the Word of God

Ray Hanna — LHM Senior Chaplain

Many sailors have never read, or even heard the Word of God other than a few verses. It is our responsibility to tell them what the Bible says. Luke 8:11 *Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.* Some receive it with anger, rejection, annoyance but many receive it with joy.

Onboard a ship I met a sailor who came into the room with a smile. He sat across from me and soon I had given him a Gospel of John/Romans and we were reading from it. Every verse that we read together, he seemed to really enjoy and appreciate. I believe he was a true believer but with limited Bible knowledge and probably never encouraged to read the Bible therefore he did not know what it said. Later I left him, challenging him to read a chapter a day.

When I went to pick up the crew on a ship, I was told by the man on gangway watch that no one could come because they were departing later that evening. I pulled out of my pocket a Gospel of John/Romans and showed him John 5:24. We read it together then I said goodbye to go to the other ships. As I was leaving him, I noticed that he had dog eared the page that we had just read the verse from. I prayed for him, that he would look up that verse again and read about the assurance of salvation.



Save the Date
LHM Advent Luncheon
see details on page 3

Romans 10:14 *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

Thank God for His Word and the privilege of sharing it with others

God's Provision

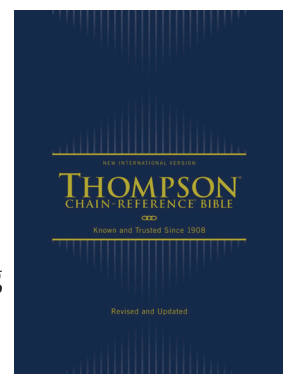
Paul Ratsoy — LHM Chaplain

"As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'"

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as He had told them." (Luke 19:29-32)

The Lord knew the exact animal that He would ride as He came to Jerusalem. There was no searching, negotiating or contemplating; the colt was tied at a certain place, ready for the King to use. It had been provided ahead of time.

Several years ago, I had a personal experience of the Lord's miraculous ability to provide ahead of time. It happened through a meeting with a seafarer in North Vancouver.



After speaking with a few Filipino seafarers in the mess room of their ship, a Christian engineer, Albert, approached me with a request. He asked me for a very specific type of Bible: NIV version, Thompson Chain-Reference, study Bible. I was a bit taken aback by the request because of the detailed nature of it. Albert didn't just want any Bible; he wanted a three-adjective, particular type of Bible. Not knowing where to find this type of Bible, I suggested that the engineer visit a local Christian bookstore that was near his ship. However, when I suggested this, Albert looked at me with a blank stare, as if to convey to me his inability to comprehend or comply with my suggestion.

I left Albert's ship a bit burdened because of his request and my failure to provide for this Brother. Then, I remembered something that brought me some solace.

Several months before I met Albert, while I was shopping at a fruit and vegetable store that I frequented, one of the Chinese workers came up to me with a box. She had found a brand-new, leather-bound Bible in her store that had apparently been left by someone. Since she knew from some of our conversations that I was involved in some type of ministry, this lady wanted me to have the Bible for the Ministry. Initially I refused her offer but, due to her persistence, after about one month I accepted it. I took the boxed Bible to the Mission's office, left it on a shelf and then essentially forgot about it... until I met Albert.

Remembering the boxed-Bible, I decided to retrieve it from the Mission, reasoning that, regardless of the version, it would be a very nice gift for Albert. After all, it was a new and costly copy and, selfishly, my burden of failure to help the engineer might be lifted through the magnitude of the gift to be provided. So, I returned to the office, found the Bible and while examining the box, was shocked to see that it was a Thomson Chain-Reference study Bible. But, on the front of the box, there was a picture of a portion of Biblical text that revealed a King James translation. Close, but not exactly what Albert wanted. Still, I hoped that this would be

acceptable to him. However, before returning to Albert's ship with the Bible, I thought that I would at least open the box and look at the Bible to confirm the version enclosed. When I opened the box and turned to the title page of the Bible, to my amazement, it revealed that it was Thomson Chain-Reference Study Bible NIV version. Exactly what Albert had requested. It had been provided ahead of time by the God who provides.

As with the Bible Albert had requested, God's provision of salvation through Jesus has been provided ahead of time to those who believe. Our amazing God provides.

Planting Seeds in 1995... Baskets of Love in 2024

Marc & Dorothy Pulfer — Marseille, France
(Marc and Dorothy shared about the seafarer ministry they do in the Port of Marseille at this past LHM Spring Breakfast)

The research vessel "Jean Charcot" docked for 3 months in Marseille, France in 1995. Due to its long stay here, Chaplain Henry Pulfer (Marc's father) and his family were able to visit the ship many times. The vessel was here for



Marc's father waving goodbye in 1995

some repairs but was principally awaiting its next research assignment.

Twelve Filipino seafarers were on board, and the officers were French. Some of the crew were believers. Frequently Chaplain Henry invited all of the seafarers to the "Mission House", as the men called our Swiss Seamen's Mission. They studied the Bible together and sang hymns. The men called Chaplain Henry "Papa". He gave Bibles to those who didn't have one. Ghil is one of the Filipino believers who worked on the Jean Charcot. Ghil's professional contract did not bring him back to Marseille after 1995. For many years, he and Chaplain Henry corresponded by post. Then Chaplain Henry passed away in May of 2019 and Ghil didn't know this and didn't know if the Swiss Mission still continued its work

with seafarers in Marseille. He found Marc on Messenger last year and wrote and asked if he was Henry Pulfer's son. When Marc replied yes, Ghil said that he has retired and is living with his family in Geneva, Switzerland. And could we come visit them?



The Lord worked out all those details, as Marc and I were in that area this summer. So

we set up a meeting, and what a blessed time it was!! Ghil and Marc couldn't stop smiling!! Ghil said that half of the crew members did become Christians! Ghil has kept in touch with most of them. We had a blessed time of prayer together in Ghil's apartment in Geneva.

The Sorrow Separation Brings

Rob James — LHM Board Member & Ship Visitor

It was midday. His ship was docked at James Richardson International Terminal. I asked the seafarer signing me into the logbook whether the chief officer was available to talk. Shortly thereafter I entered the smoking room across from the messroom, and the chief cook and messman entered the room. Within moments, the Filipino chief mate arrived, and we sat side by side, separated only by a coffee table.

Once I had learned where in the Philippines he came from, I asked him whether he professed to be a Christian, a Muslim or neither. He answered, "I am a Catholic." I pointed to the text of John 3:16 on the Lighthouse sticker attached to the gospel literature for the men, and we read it together: For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. I asked him whether he himself had received Christ and eternal life. He wasn't sure, but he hoped to go to heaven when his life ended.

We walked through The Bridge Illustration together in Tagalog. He readily identified

with TAO, mankind in a condition of PAGKAHIWALAY (separation) from DIOS (God), due to KASALANAN (sin) and seemed to understand that, while the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life NI CRISTO JESUS (Romans 6:23). Furthermore, all our own efforts - MABUTING GAWA (whatever good we can do), RELIHIYON (whatever religious tenets we adopt), PERA (whatever amount of funds we donate) or PAMILYA (whatever social status our family may possess) - are futile attempts to bridge the gap. Only by asking for forgiveness, turning from going our own way and trusting in the good news, MAGANDANG BALITA, of Jesus (Mark 1:15) do we pass over from death to life (John 5:24).

When I asked the chief officer about his family and when he would see them next (seven more months in April 2025!), his eyes brightened, his speech quickened and seemingly endless photos of three smartly dressed sons, 14, 11 and four years of age, and their mother, were produced on his phone. How we long for every PAGKAHIWALAY to be bridged.



LHM Advent Luncheon

**Saturday,
November 30th
Starts at 12 noon
(doors open at 11:30)**

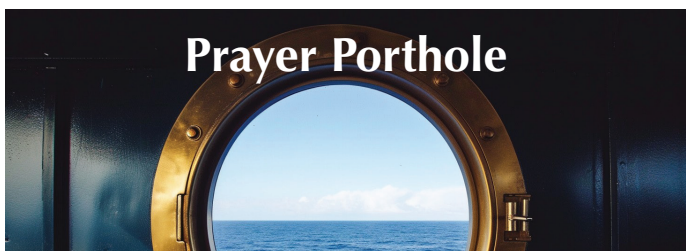


Bethany Baptist Church
22680 Westminster Hwy
Richmond, BC

**To book your place or host a table contact:
604-988-5084 or info@sealight.org
An opportunity to give will be provided**



Captain J and his crew with New Testaments from Lighthouse. This captain leads a service every Sunday his vessel is at sea



Prayer Porthole

*“Continue steadfastly in prayer,
being watchful in it with thanksgiving”*

(Colossians 4:2)

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

- Praise the Lord for opportunities both on the vessels and at the centres to speak His Word
- Petition for more seafarers to come to the centres
- Pray for Mrs Z, the wife of a seafarer who professed faith in Jesus and is now in Canada studying that she will come to faith in Christ
- Pray for Christian seafarers who are sharing God's Word aboard their vessel, that they will be fruitful and protected
- Pray for a Filipino 3rd Officer's father to be released from a deceptive cult
- Pray for a Burmese mess man to come to a living faith in Jesus
- Pray for more volunteers (hosting at our centres, ship visiting and drivers)
- Praise God for continued access to seafarers from all over the world
- Praise God for physical safety while on ships

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

*“I thank my God in all my
remembrance of you, always in every
prayer of mine for you all making my
prayer with joy, because of your
partnership in the gospel”*

(Philippians 1:3-5)

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.