

# THE BEACON



a newsletter from Lighthouse Harbour Ministries Vancouver

Winter 2024

## The Gospel Reaches Everyone

Allen Jones — LHM Board Member & Ship Visitor

I meet a variety of people as I visit crews. After a casual conversation I usually ask what they think happens after we die, or how can we be sure we'll be with God in heaven?

A Buddhist explained he hoped that his good deeds would be greater than his bad and therefore he'd go to heaven. He asked me how I would describe heaven. I had to think of a simple answer and I said that for me, being with God would be heaven. I also gave him a New Testament and pointed to Revelation chapters 21 and 22. Please pray that he will find the Way to God through Jesus.

A Croatian officer says he believes in God but not the church, considering all the bad things the church has done over the centuries. He honours God and worships in his own way. I explained that the true church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1 and 4) and we are connected by his Holy Spirit. Jesus explains that he is the true vine and we must remain in Him (John 15). Pray that he connects with Jesus the Head of the church and the true vine.

Mark, a Second Officer, took a New Testament and began reading at Mathew 1. He read two or three chapters as I waited and he remarked that Herod was not a very good man (was he?) and asked, "Who was King David?" Pray that Mark will continue to be drawn to the gospel and find Jesus.



Sometimes I meet Christians who, when asked, immediately say that they have faith in Jesus. Jett is a born-again Christian and we shared our testimonies. His family was originally Roman Catholic but he attended a school where there was a Christian teacher. Her influence led him to true faith in Christ. Subsequently his whole family became Christian including his heavily addicted father. He feels he wants to preach but doesn't have the confidence. His shipmates think the bible is boring. I showed him Acts 12 where God rescues Peter from prison. No one can say that is boring! Please pray that God will give him the confidence to speak to his shipmates about the Saviour!

At Christmas, several generous church groups partnered with Lighthouse and prepared gift bags for seafarers. I was able to deliver some of the gifts to seafarers aboard their ships. They are always grateful and this gives an opportunity to introduce Jesus to people who may not know Him. The name of one ship is the "Global Ambition" and I couldn't help thinking of Jesus global commission to the church in Matthew 28:19.

These stories connect with each other through the Gospel, that reaches everyone where they are. It reveals our true nature without God and our need for a saviour. It reveals God, who makes Himself known through



his Word, who became flesh, who draws us to Himself by his Spirit and who saves us from eternal death as we trust his sacrifice as the cost of our sin. We must not be ashamed, discouraged or lack confidence because the gospel is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16).



## Double Birthday Smiles

*Oliver Samonte — LHM Driver & Ship Visitor*

The more I learn about the challenges and dangers that the seafarers constantly face on the high seas, the more eager I become to effectively share God's amazing grace that can save souls to the uttermost.

Though most of the time, seafarers would rather take advantage of Lighthouse's free wi-fi, play billiards, ping-pong or go shopping, I do appreciate every opportunity when seafarers show genuine interest in the Living Word. When seafarers open up and engage, I strive to share the Good News in the shortest possible time, and simply leave the results to God. I always remind myself of a simple personal motto, "Serve First, Sermon Follows".

One thing I learned in my first year at LHM was that cadets only receive less than \$500 a month on their first 2 contracts. Since I have learned that, I have always try to bring a simple care package for cadets.

Last September, "NL" a cadet, celebrated his 22nd birthday the week he visited LHM when their vessel was docked at Lynnterm terminal. We had an



engaging time with him, and other crew over the 3 days they visited. I brought the left over round chocolate cake from my son's birthday, who has the same name as him. I was inspired to re-shape the cake into a shape of a ship, and re-decorated it with his initials, and miniature Philippine Flag.

When I delivered the cake to their vessel, I also met their 3rd Engineer, named "J" who told me he has the same birthday as "NL" and I replied "don't worry sir, I will make another cake for you". I designed another ship shaped cake out of ube bread and hopia, 2 of the most favorite Filipino foods. When I delivered the second cake, both of them were on duty. They sent photos and videos, in their cover-alls, blowing the candle on the cake with a simple caption. "Sir thank you, you made our day". The big smiles on their faces made my day too.



## God Changes Our Plans

*Carl Dorozio — Chaplain*

I had my plans all in place. "S" was a young lady cadet from Sri Lanka that I had met previously and she had also connected with Ray and Ruth Hanna. Her vessel was coming back to Fraser Surrey and I was going to take her and another crew member to sightsee in Steveston.

When I got to the gangway there were instead 6 crew including the Chinese chief engineer. Some wanted to go to the mountains but were wearing dress shoes, and most were not dressed to walk in the snow. After a quick chat it was decided we would continue on with the original plan to go into Steveston and sightsee. It was a cold and rainy day so not the best conditions but everyone was happy to explore as we started off.

After walking around for awhile some became restless. Different groups wanted to do other things and would wander off at times. It was

turning into a challenge to keep everyone happy, let alone together. It was becoming harder (and frustrating) to speak personally with “S” and continue the conversation we had started on her first visit to our centre as well as subsequent WhatsApp messages.

One crew bought prawns on the dock and then the chief engineer treated us all to salmon burgers and fries. While some crew again stayed outside the chief engineer and I had a good talk. He was open to speaking about a creator and the power of Jesus in rising from the dead. I gave him a Chinese New Testament and he read John 11 and Acts 17 and discussed what the passages were about. In the end I realized that while my plans did not turn out the way I wanted, God had arranged for a high ranking officer to come and spend time hearing the gospel. He left with a New Testament and promised to read it. I am hoping to see him when their ship returns in about 40 days.



## LHM Prince Rupert

*Zetho Dante — Head Chaplain*

The Prince Rupert Lighthouse harbour Ministries has a very strategic location in the downtown core. Different people, whether local or tourist, may pass by and sometimes drop in at our center: either asking for directions or what kind of business we have. Some people were asking for a Bible or dropping a donation.

One afternoon while doing some preparations for when the seafarers come, “S” dropped by and asked what kind of business we offer. I gladly explain to him that we minister to the seafarers of the world. “We serve and help the seafarers when they are in Rupert,” I said. He told me that

he came to visit his family for a couple of weeks. As we exchanged some good conversations, I felt that “S” was carrying some heavy load that reflected on his face. I asked him if I could pray for him before he left. He nodded his head indicating that he is willing to be prayed for. Before I prayed, I asked him to put his trust in God and directed him to Jesus Christ the “Higher Intelligence” he’s been searching for. I can see that he’s holding back his tears as we pray. He thanked me and left.

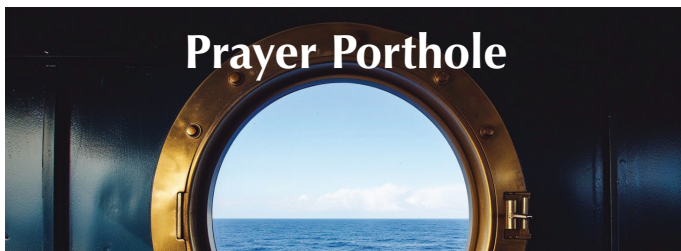
This reminds me of what Paul exhorted young Timothy to preach the word; be ready [a]in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and [b]exhort, with [c] great patience and instruction (2Tim.4:2 NASB). God will bring people in our lives for a purpose. To share the love of God which we received by faith in Christ our Lord. Love that will draw them to God. We love because He first loved us. And this love is the fulfillment of His commands to love God and our neighbour.

“Thank you for your love and concern. No one has ever told me the seriousness of my habit. You truly care for seafarers like me. Again, thank you.” That word from “A” that brought us to tears. “A” is a cadet and he sat beside me and shared with me his struggles and bad choices. He admitted that he was into pornography and started to drift away from his faith. He was in tears as he told me about his promise to God before getting this job. He promised that he will conduct a Bible study on board the ship. He is a pastor’s kid and was an active in their church in the Philippines. However, things changed when he gets involved in pornography and other vices.



He confessed that his spiritual life had become dull and noticed that his behavior too had changed.

Before they went back to their ship, I prayed with him and encouraged him to come back to God. I told him to ask God to forgive him and restore joy in serving Him. I encouraged him to read his Bible again and devote himself to pray that he will overcome and flee from temptations. He smiled at me and hugged me so tight that I had a hard time breathing. We parted ways and thanked God for touching the life of "A". Just like "A", many seafarers are struggling to cope with pressure and loneliness on board a ship. We need to listen and pray for them.



## Prayer Porthole

- Praise the Lord for for over 40 seafarers who came to the North Vancouver Centre on Christmas Day
- Pray that the Lord would open the hearts of Indian seafarers to the gospel.
- Continue to pray for more seafarers to come to our two centres, particularly Fraser Surrey. With faster WiFi now on board many vessels, the big draw to our centres is not as strong.
- Praise God for the many conversations that happen every day and that the seed of God's word will bear fruit as the seafarers leave Vancouver and travel to their next port.
- The life of the seafarer and their family is challenging in many ways. Without God's Word to help them set wise priorities, they will run into problems. Pray they read the Bible for the 'abundant life' Christ offers.



**Save the Date**  
**LHM Spring Breakfast**  
details to come later on website

## 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



1 - 260 E. Esplanade  
North Vancouver B.C. Canada V7L 1A3  
Phone: (604) 988-5084  
Email: [info@sealight.org](mailto:info@sealight.org)  
Web site: [www.sealight.org](http://www.sealight.org)  
FB: Lighthouse Harbour



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](mailto:info@sealight.org)
- Planned giving through wills, charitable bequests
- Or give on-line via LHM's secured web site:  
[www.sealight.org](http://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.