

THE BEACON



a newsletter from Lighthouse Harbour Ministries Vancouver

Summer 2025

The Lord is My Shepherd

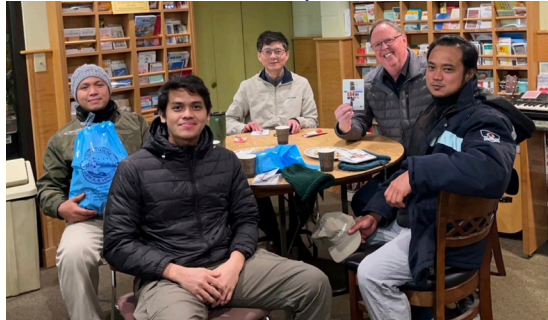
Ray Hanna — Senior Port Chaplain

Psalm 23 starts with “The Lord is my shepherd.” It then lists 11 blessings that we receive when the Lord is our shepherd. Sadly, many sailors (and others, including myself) cannot claim all those 11 points for ourselves. Why not? Maybe because we are not allowing the Lord to be our shepherd. Maybe we are still, as Isaiah 53 says, “all we like sheep have gone astray, we have each turned to our own way.” I think the toughest part of being a caring shepherd is to watch over wayward sheep who are constantly wandering away and into trouble. The sheep don’t know that the safest place for them is in the view of and care of the shepherd.

For many, the sparkle of the world’s temptations seems more exciting (the pleasures of sin for a season) than following the Good Shepherd. Even though we know what sin leads to, we somehow think we will stop soon, or it won’t happen to us.

The sailor’s life is often a life of conflict. They want to be good husbands and fathers, but the temptations of sin are all around them. Sadly, when they are not following the Good Shepherd, they get themselves into all kinds of hurt and problems.

How do they get back with the shepherd when they have gone astray? Repentance. We must acknowledge that we have gone the wrong way, done the wrong thing, and now we recognize the need for help, ie a Saviour.



We have many conversations with sailors who have come to the end of themselves, miserable, feeling trapped in sin and with no way out. I am glad to read with them from Psalm 107: “He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their chains in pieces.” Or Psalm 51, how that God is willing to forgive a broken and contrite heart.

After talking to sailors about sin and our secrets, one of the first verses I show them is John 5:24 *“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life”* One sailor said to me, “Oh, that is good news! Thank you for showing me this verse”. Another Officer started to cry when I showed him this verse, he told me through tears that his father had taught him this verse.

I heard a story of a man who was going door to door sharing the Gospel. When a lady answered at one door, he said to her, Did you know that Jesus Christ came to earth to give you a second chance? She immediately started crying and said, I could use a second chance. (don’t we all?)

Praise God that Jesus Christ did not come to judge the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Not all are ready to receive this Good News, but all need it. I am thankful that God has allowed us to be His workers (1 Cor 3:9)

Thank you for your prayers and for other ways that you partner with us as we share this life-saving news.

Encouraged by a Seafarer

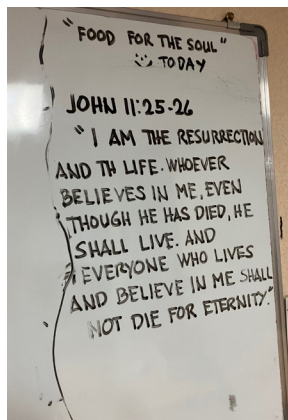
Bill Wong — LHM President & Ship Visitor

The goals for those of us who visit ships are to encourage the seafarers that we meet and share the good news of salvation with them. Most of the seafarers that we do meet spend much of their lives on the high seas – away from their loved ones, and many do not have a faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. But I've often found that God uses some of the seafarers to encourage us instead.

I experienced encouragement from a seafarer recently on a ship docked at the Cascadia grain terminal near the PNE. After boarding the ship, I went up to the dining room to see if there was any seafarer available to chat with. After waiting for a short while, two seafarers showed up – the chief engineer and the second engineer, both on their break. The chief engineer did not stay very long. However, the second engineer, whose name was Francis, stayed behind to chat with me. After introducing ourselves and learning more about his career as seafarer and his family, I found out that Francis was a Christian. In fact, he was a strong believer.



While chatting with Francis, I noticed there was some writing on a whiteboard above the food counter in the corner of the dining room. It read, "Food for the Soul Today" with a passage from John 11:25-26. I was curious and so I asked Francis who wrote that. He said he was the one who wrote it because he wanted to share a



different passage from the Bible every day with his fellow ship mates. That was his way of witnessing for the Lord.

I also noticed that there was a small poster on another wall titled "Christ Died for Our Sins," which explained how one can

have redemption and forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ and receive eternal life by believing in Him. Francis said he put up that poster, along with another one beside it titled, "Prayer of Acceptance."

Wow, what a great way to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone on board – in the dining room where the seafarers can consider "food for their soul" while having their daily meals! I was deeply touched and encouraged by Francis's willingness to share the gospel with his shipmates. I pray that more Christian seafarers would be willing to do what Francis is doing!

Do You Remember Me?

Carl Doroizio - Chaplain

One day the port schedule showed only 2 ships in the area I was planning to visit and, as a result, I planned early on to see if some crew would be interested in spending some time with me sightseeing in the mountains.

When I got to the first ship all the crew were from Myanmar and some were very interested in going on an outing. Most of the crew were friendly and interacted with me and took the Burmese Bible tracts I had brought. I was taken to the ship's office after a while and the first thing I heard when I walked in was "Hi Mr. Carl, do you remember me?" I meet so many sailors that it is hard to remember but then he told me that when he was a cadet I took him to Stanley Park and showed him and some crew around. I was able to find the photos of our meeting on my phone and showed the officer's cadet photos to the crew in the office (they enjoyed seeing his cadet photos). He was busy working but took the time to visit and listen as I spoke about Jesus. He was also happy to receive a Gospel of John in Burmese. The 2nd Officer was not able to go with me but encouraged 4 other crew to take some time and that I could be trusted.



We had a great time walking around in the forest and across the suspension bridge. We sat down and had some french fries and was able to share the gospel with one sailor in particular. He was a Muslim and after I spoke shared that he disagreed with me. I was glad to get some push



back because it meant he had been listening. Before I dropped them off downtown I asked them

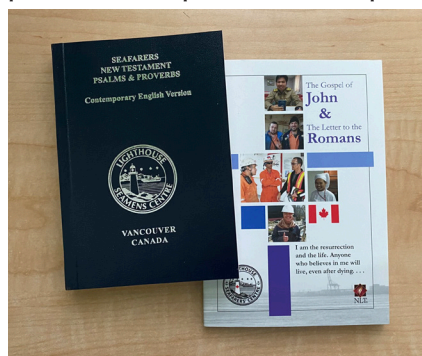
if they wanted a part of the Bible to read, no pressure. Two of them quickly said “yes”, then the man who I had been speaking to also expressed a desire to receive a copy. The Quran speaks of the “Injil” which means “Gospel” and I encouraged him to read this good news. In the end all 4 took a copy and expressed their thanks for the time I had taken to be with them.

Another Order Coming Up

In August 2023 we received nearly 11,000 Gospels of John/Romans booklets. We only have about 1000 left and have placed an order for 10,000 more. Please pray for all those who have already received one, and those who will receive a new one, that they would pick it up, read it, believe it and or pass it on for someone else to read.



LHM also hands out a Seafarer’s New Testament (plus Psalms & Proverbs) and has started the process to reprint 7000 copies. Please pray for those who will receive them. If you would like to support either of these projects, please contact our office.



Victoria Lighthouse Ministries is a seafarer ministry located at Ogden Point in Victoria, B.C. and reaches out to those working on the cruise ships. The centre is located inside the terminal, just a short walk from where the cruise ships dock. The following is a story told by one of the chaplains in Victoria:

Beylinda’s Story

Debbie Maxie - Chaplain

On weekends the tent is a lively place. We usually have three ships and a full house. People are talking, laughing, calling home, and just enjoying some time away from the ship. And they love to pose for photos.



One Saturday, my husband, Tom, brought out his camera as a group of young men and women huddled together for him. One woman in the group had just picked out a bright green toque from our collection and put it on as she smiled for the camera. Later, before she left, she filled out a prayer card. I could see that she was having a hard time. English wasn’t her first language.

This is what she wrote - “please pray for me, I want to forget my past, I want to never try to commit suicide again. I am twenty-two on my next birthday. Before, I hated my life, but this year makes me hope I can live forever. I never want to try to commit suicide again.”

You never know people’s needs and hurts when they come to the tent. We had no idea what she was going through as she laughed with her friends and posed for pictures.

She came back a few weeks later. Tom and I

didn't recognize her at first, but she remembered us. As she left, she stopped at the door, put her arms around us, and gave us a big hug. We don't know all that was going on in her life - but we do know that God heard that young woman's cry for help, and she walked out the door a different person.



- The number of seafarers coming to our Fraser Surrey Centre continues to be low and sporadic
- Praise God for an Indian seafarer who came to know Christ when he was 15 years old. His story is amazing and pray that he will continue to grow in his faith and that God will use this seafarer for His glory
- Pray for Ukrainian seafarers and the families they represent
- Pray for the wives of seafarers who function like single moms and the challenges they face
- Pray for "R", a Filipino Chief Cook who is needing to cut his contract short in order to go home to help his mother deal with urgent health issues
- Pray for "J", a Filipino Chief Officer who has started weekly Bible studies
- Sailors who are facing immense pressures from their jobs and their families back home. They are caught in the middle and sometimes it is overwhelming
- Pray for the safety of ships coming here, that the Lord would prepare seafarers' hearts to receive the Gospel. Pray for those who have heard the Gospel but are now headed to their next port
- June 25 is Day of the Seafarer. We have 200 beautiful gift bags ready to give out to seafarers, including The Gospel of John and the Letter to the Romans booklets. Pray that we will have many interactions on this international day that recognizes the contribution of seafarers

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
Web site: www.sealight.org
FB: Lighthouse Harbour



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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.