

THE BEACON



A Newsletter from Lighthouse Harbour Ministries Vancouver

Fall 2025

Day of the Seafarer - June 25th

Ray Hanna — Senior Port Chaplain

The Day of the Seafarer is an annual worldwide event, held on June 25. It is celebrated to recognize the contributions of seafarers whose labours facilitate the world trade that benefits us. LHM keeps this yearly event by hosting special events and providing gifts on (and around) this day. This year, the Missions Circle



at Willingdon Church and several businesses donated and assembled 200 beautiful gift bags that we were able to distribute.

On a car carrier ship that brings

vehicles from Asia to Canada, I was able to bring gift bags for all the crew and they were excited to receive them. Most of these ships are in port by 7 am and depart by 3 pm, leaving very little time for the seafarers to go ashore. I usually receive a great welcome from them and, regarding gifts, tell them that all the items are valuable, but that the greatest gift is found in the Bible. So, I then say, read the Bible to find out what the gift is.

A ship was in port in early June, before the Day of the Seafarer, and the crew were not allowed shore leave. I felt terrible about this as they seemed to be like prisoners on board. In fact, this grieved me all night, as I thought about what to do. I decided to give all the crew gift bags, even though it was before the Day of the Seafarer. When I went on board, I spoke with an

officer and asked for his permission to give each crew member a gift bag. He reservedly agreed, but I could see big smiles on the crew's faces. When the ship returns in a few weeks, I hope to have made some new friends on board.

On the Day of the Seafarer, we had a special celebration at both centres. In North Vancouver, we had extra vehicles and extra centre hosts on hand to help us. We distributed invitations on board the ships one day prior to the event, promising a gift bag to all attendees. We started picking up seafarers earlier than we normally do. Some wanted to go to downtown Vancouver, so before they left, we gathered them together to share the Gospel message with them.

To appreciate a cure for a problem, you need to understand the seriousness of it first. In my sharing with seafarers I started talking about my secrets, and they quickly nodded in agreement, understanding their own situation as well. I was able to share with them Gospel verses and tell them that getting to heaven was not about being a good person, but about being forgiven. We were able to have two separate groups gather for the Gospel message, as well as many other opportunities to speak with the seafarers one-to-one.

Our prayer is that they remember the generosity and kindness shown to them, and read the Gospel of John/Romans booklets that they received. Please pray with us for those who have received God's Word.



Save the Date
LHM Advent Luncheon
see details on page 3

To Us a Child is Born

Rob James — LHM Volunteer & Board Member

Crossing Vancouver Harbour on the SeaBus is always an adventure with God. I often ride this small ferry to travel to North Vancouver on my ship ministry days. While onboard I can survey the North Shore shipping terminals, and earnestly pray that God's kingdom would come and His will be done in the lives of the seafarers, mostly men, who earn their living aboard the bulk-carrier ships docked within sight.

The first ship I boarded on a particular Thursday morning was crewed entirely by South Asians, the great majority of whom are from the Indian state of Kerala. While sharing Gospel literature and two In-Touch Ministries audio players with the crew, I was enabled by the Lord to meet and befriend the chief officer in the Ship's office. He eagerly donned the knitted toque he chose from the bag I brought with me – each hat was distinctively different from the others and had a tag with a Gospel message for the receiver: 'God loves you' and 'You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart,' taken from Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV).

I learned that the chief officer and his wife were adopting a baby girl at home in India, a process, he said, that could take up to three years to complete. While they could have paid a crooked official to expedite their case, they refused to resort to anything unlawful. Their desire is to make this child their own and give her a stable home and all the love they have for her. I told him that this is precisely what God desires for him: to adopt him as His own child and invest him with sonship so that God will be his Father (cf. Rom. 8:15, 23). (First, of course, he would need to repent of his sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.) The room was busy at the time, with the captain, a young cadet and the third officer present.

I left to take the third officer to the SeaBus so that he could visit downtown Vancouver, and, also, took two other crew members to exchange currency and to shop.

Fortunately, the chief officer (C/O) and I exchanged contact information before I left the office and we are now connected through WhatsApp. He sent me a message two days later to tell me the ship had left Vancouver early that morning enroute to East Asia and to give Paul, another chaplain who had also visited him and given him some Gospel materials, his regards.

Astoundingly, if the C/O repents, believes and

perseveres to the return of Jesus, he - along with us - will inherit all things as an adopted son of the Father (Rev. 21:7). May it be so, Lord Jesus.

Excited About What God is Doing

Willem Van Arkel — LHM Volunteer

Many years have passed since my father, who was the deacon in charge of the seaman's mission in the church on the Caribbean Island of Curacao, took me as a seven year old boy along on a ship to invite the sailors to our local church. It took me (too) many years to reconnect with seafaring ministry, but I am so happy that I finally did with Lighthouse Harbour Ministries.

There has not been one evening that I have left the ministry centre when I have not felt excited about the incredible things the Lord Jesus had done. He had used even me, an inadequate – but saved sinner.

I would like to share some details about one of these exciting evenings in the hope that it will encourage the reader. For the Lord God wants no one to perish and will use anyone who is available to share the hope He has blessed us with.

On this particular evening there were about a dozen men who had come to the centre from a few different ships. They were playing table-tennis, pool, and a few were outside shooting hoops. "M", an older sailor from the Philippines, approached me for small talk. We got into a nice conversation about how and why he became a seaman, his journeys at sea, countries he had visited and, briefly, about things related to politics and religion. This is a standard approach I use: to speak about general items and then to switch the conversation and talk about the things that really matter.

So, I asked "M" where he would go if he were to accidentally die later that night, heaven or hell? He replied without hesitation and said that he would go to hell. He told me that he was of a certain Christian faith background and knew very well that none of the sins he'd committed could be forgiven by priests who themselves sinned just as much as he did. He had come to the Centre that night because he was soon turning fifty years old and had had enough of the sinning sailors lifestyle. He wanted to know how he could become a real Christian, a child of God.

We had spoken for about an hour when I suggested that we go to another room where it was quieter so that we could pray together and he could commit his

life to the Lord. Just after we sat down a sailor from India interrupted us and asked my new friend why he would want to become a Christian and if he had inquired about any other religions. I kept quiet and prayed. My friend explained with much excitement how he had come to the decision to repent and submit to his Creator. Then, learning that the Indian was of the Hindu religion, he asked him how, in Hinduism one receives forgiveness for their sins. I said nothing. Ten minutes later the Indian was won over by my Filipino friend and wanted to follow him in the sinners prayer. And so they did; one after the other they prayed and changed their eternal destination...

Senior Chaplain Ray Hanna walked in shortly thereafter and I introduced the two sailors as our new brothers in the Lord. I asked Ray if he could please speak with them to see if they really understood what they'd just done. And so Ray went through the Gospel

again with them...
I drove home
Praising the Lord!



But, that's not where the amazing experience ends. The following week there was only one ship in

our part of the harbour and three seamen came down to the Seaman's Centre. They seemed to have no interest in conversations with us and were happy to play games until they got hungry. Food was ordered and when it arrived I asked my companion Martin to ask for a blessing. As they ate their dinner, I told them what had happened the previous week, how one of their country men had gotten so excited with the prospect of changing his eternal destination from hell to heaven, that he shared that Good News with a fellow sailor who was from the Hindu religion. I went on to tell them that as a result both of these sailors

You're Invited to:

LHM Advent Luncheon

**Saturday,
November 29th
Starts at 12 noon
(doors open at 11:30)**

Bethany Baptist Church
22680 Westminster Hwy
Richmond, BC

**Reservations are required. Please let the person who invited you know or contact LHM office:
604-988-5084 or info@sealight.org**



had been saved from a life of hopelessness to a life of hope and purpose. Not long after this, these three sailors bowed their heads and asked the Lord Jesus to also forgive them as they expressed their desire to become children of the Living God!

All five Sailors left with new life and a 'Seafarers New Testament' in their hands to guide through the storms of life. Glory to God! I loved sharing my Lighthouse experiences with our children at the dinner table the next evening!



Eastern Canada

Steve Budd – Ship Visitor

In 2019 the Lord Jesus opened a door of opportunity for some Believers to visit tanker ships in the port of Saint John, New Brunswick Canada. Since then, with a little pause during Covid, we have been able to take the Gospel to mariners visiting our oil terminal port.

Recently I had the privilege to meet a fellow believer from the Philippines. He was the bosun (deck foreman) on the ship and, while I was aboard his ship, came over to ask me questions.

He wanted to know who I was and what I was teaching. We enjoyed a few minutes of fellowship in the Word of God while in the mess room lounge and I gave him some gospel materials. He took a few small "two roads" charts, based on Matt 7:13,14. In the attached picture he has one copy in his hand. In my brief experience, I have found very few Christians on ships. Often, seafarer express belief in some type of religion, but knowing for sure they are on their way to heaven is rare. This bosun knew for sure... thank the Lord.

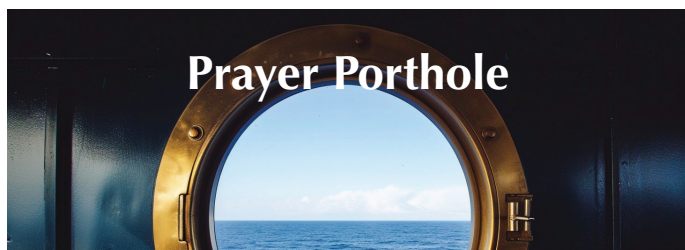


I also met "R", the chief cook on one of the ships I visited. (There are two important people on the ship.. the captain and the cook!) "R" is a very pleasant man from the Philippines. He was busy preparing for dinner when we met, but after lunch we had a great

conversation about God's wonderful salvation. He is holding a calendar which has a new Gospel verse each month.



Every ship is a unique experience. The Lord said "follow me and I will make you fishers of men". Labour in the Gospel is "not in vain"; it has eternal realities. These facts are established for eternity and will never pass away. it is amazing to have a small part in this tremendous work.



- Please pray for more, including younger workers – to be moved to consider serving with Lighthouse Harbour Ministries.
- Pray for "S.R" who is a chief cook from an Asian country. He is a strong Christian who has been through a lot in his life. He and his family are involved in outreach at home. Pray for his testimony onboard and for continued growth in his walk with God
- Pray for "C", a Korean 3rd Officer. After a good discussion with regards to the implications of there being a creator he took a Korean Gospel of John/Romans and said he would read it. Their ship will be returning to Vancouver.
- Pray for 5 recently saved seafarers. That they will read the scriptures and grow in faith. Pray also for protection from wrong teaching.
- Pray for "S", an Indian officer who recently put his faith in Jesus. He is listening to Bible teaching in Tamil on a MP3 player but pray that he will also read the Bible for himself.
- Pray for "L", a 27 year old Filipino cadet. He had no idea of how to receive forgiveness and eternal life. Pray that he will respond to the message shared and read his Bible.

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.