

THE BEACON

A newsletter from Lighthouse Harbour Ministries Vancouver

Spring/Summer 2026



Tour Guide

Joel Palit-Ang - Port Chaplain

Sailors are frequently eager to tour local places when their ships are berthed, especially when they can be conveniently accompanied!

Not long ago, a young Greek second officer asked me if I would be willing to take him to the different places included on his bucket list. Looking at the list, I knew that it would require several hours to cover all the destinations. But the Lord reminded me that if I attended to the seafarer's request, our time together would open up an opportunity to minister and witness to him.

We did go together and, as we toured, I could see how delighted he was to see all the new places, constantly taking photos and videos of the sights. He also expressed his gratefulness for this favour on such short notice, the alternative requiring him to pay for very expensive tour services. During our time together, he shared with me that his goals in life were to visit different places and eventually have his own home, believing these things would fulfill him and make him happy. I used these comments as my cue to steer our conversation toward spiritual things and then told him that I wanted to introduce him to Someone who could give him a better place without cost. He became silent and listened attentively, probably not expecting to hear what I was about to share. I told him that until he comes to Jesus Christ, he will not be able to experience true satisfaction and true joy. I'm not sure how much this spoke to his heart, but he did express appreciation for my concern for him and was extremely grateful for the time I spent touring him around the Vancouver area.



A short time after my encounter with the Greek officer mentioned above, an Indian captain made

a similar request for assistance, except that he didn't have a bucket list of places; he simply wanted me to choose places to take him and his crew to see. He wanted only to relax, set aside his responsibilities, forget his role as a captain, and let me be he and his crew's 'captain' during our outing.

As we toured, the Captain was thrilled to be taken to unfamiliar communities and places. Later in the evening, I took the sailors for a stroll around a lake. They felt relaxed, and after a bit, the Captain decided to rest on a bench for a quick smoke. It was then that I started to talk to the sailors about God the Creator, who, despite His invisible nature, can be understood and who reveals Himself through the evidence visible in the natural world around us. I further explained that God's will and desire are not only for us to know Him, but also to be in a personal relationship with Him. We talked about the significance of relationships in general and the positive impact they have in life and then, particularly, our much-needed relationship with God.

The crew members expressed their appreciation for our time together, and I drove them back to their ship, bringing the evening to a close.

After my time with the sailors was over, I felt that their gratitude did not come from the spoken words of the Gospel as much as from the deeds of kindness they received. Yet it is my prayer and hope that those acts of kindness would make the message of the Gospel more meaningful and more readily received in their hearts. None of the time we spent together was truly lost. For, new friendships were gained and communication continues even as they sail across the world.

Please pray that they would come to know God and His Word.

Pastor on Board

Bill Wong - LHM Board Member & Port Chaplain

On one of our days out visiting ships, my partner and I went on board a ship docked at AGT terminal on the south side of Burrard Inlet, not knowing who we might meet. When we went up to the mess hall, the messman was still cleaning up some dirty dishes left by the crew. We introduced ourselves as ship visitors from the Lighthouse Harbour Ministries and the messman replied by saying, "Oh, our pastor is still here. He just finished his lunch. You should talk with him."

The "pastor" referred to happened to be an engine room seafarer on the ship, whose name was Rodrigo. We introduced ourselves, and Rodrigo shared with us how he came to faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. He said it had happened several years ago through his brother, who was a pastor back home in the Philippines. Since becoming a Christ follower and working as a seafarer, Rodrigo felt moved by the Holy Spirit to be obedient to Jesus's Great Commission to "go and make disciples" by sharing the Good News with his fellow crew members. He told us that he does this by holding



a short worship service every Sunday morning in the mess room and inviting everyone to come. He said he has been doing this on every ship that he has worked on, with the blessing of the ship's captain. This Brother in Christ also said the attendance has been good, with about a dozen crew members attending every Sunday. During the weekly gathering, Rodrigo reads a passage from the Bible, shares a short message, and then prays with and for anyone who is in need of prayer.

Rodrigo does this because he knows that we are at a critical time in history when the Lord Jesus Christ could return at any moment. He also knows that his crew members will spend eternity in hell unless they turn to the Lord. That is what motivates Rodrigo to do what he does – to save lost souls for Christ.

Since he was still on duty when we met him, Rodrigo said that he needed to get back to work. We commended him for what he was doing for the Lord and thanked him for the time that he spent with us. Before he left, we prayed for Rodrigo – that the Lord would bless him for his willingness to serve Him, that He would make his ministry fruitful, and that all the glory be to Him.

God's Unfailing Love Leads The Way

Rob James - LHM Board Member & Port Chaplain

It was the last day of April when I made my way to the westmost North Shore shipping terminal of Vancouver Harbour, Vancouver Wharves. The First Narrows (Lions Gate) Bridge loomed high nearby. Only one ship was docked that day at the first of five berths. Its name suggested a strong likelihood that the crew would be from the linguistically diverse land of India. I was not disappointed.

Upon entering the ship's office, I happened upon a man smartly dressed in a mariner's sweater and slacks. His ready smile and distinguished beard captivated me as I surveyed the room with two occupants. Thinking he may be the captain, I introduced myself to him and discovered that he was, in fact, the messman. Pedro (not his real name) was warm and engaging; he offered me



coffee, tea, or another beverage without skipping a beat and promptly returned within a minute or two with a cup of coffee in hand.

Sitting down with Pedro, I asked him whether he was a religious man and, if so, which religion or faith tradition he followed. He told me he is a Christian from the state of Goa and proceeded to show me a picture of the Goan Catholic Church he attends. He extolled its historical features and the annual pilgrimage of Christians who come to view the remains of an early saint buried in a crypt beneath it. Pedro told me that, as a Christian, it was important for him to do what Jesus told him to do. While I could not argue with that, I was nonetheless concerned that he was pinning his hope, yea his salvation, on his own works rather than on the finished “work” of Jesus Himself on the hill of Calvary (John 19:30).

I then showed Pedro, primarily from the Biblical book of Romans how it is through the gospel that “the power of God ... brings salvation to everyone who believes” savingly in Jesus and receives the “righteousness that is by faith” (1:16-17). Eventually, we reached Romans 10:9-10, which underscores the imperativeness of believing the gospel with the heart and professing faith in Jesus with the mouth.

While conversing with Pedro, I also asked him about his family in faraway Goa. Like many seafarers, this fellow has a family, including a small child, a daughter, whom he intends to put through university through his earnings. Sadly, like so many in the world today, Pedro’s wife is living with a concerning cancer diagnosis. Thankfully, Pedro and I are in touch via WhatsApp. God willing, he will return home in two months’ time.



Portsmouth, England

Peter Wells - Chaplain

In our ministry among seafarers in Portsmouth area, we always pray for wisdom and the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit when going on board a ship. Sometimes, however, we are more conscious of the need than at other times. Such a time occurred a few weeks ago, when I was preparing to go on my own to a little ship. A friendly ship agent told me he’d never met such an angry Captain as the one on that ship! This caused more fervent prayer on my part.

On arriving at the ship, I was welcomed to the bridge by the Dutch Second Officer and the Indonesian Chief Officer. After an initial distribution of gifts and conversations about families and voyage, I shared the Good News about Jesus using an evangelical tool called the ‘EvangeCube’. The Second Officer said he wasn’t a Christian but was interested. The Chief, who was a Muslim, was occupied with figures and had his back to us, but it was clear that he was listening!

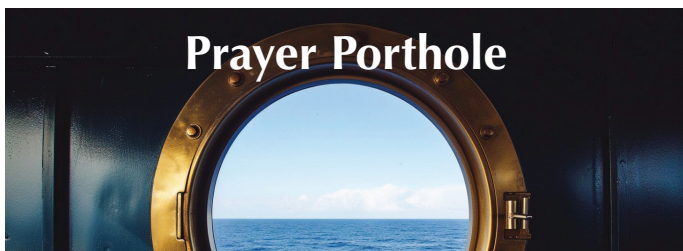
The shipping agent then came onboard wanting to speak to the Captain. The Ukrainian Captain then appeared, and it wasn’t long before he



humiliated his Chief Officer in front of us all, accusing him of not doing his job properly. You could feel the tension rising! I then had a brief time alone with the Captain. I asked him about his home situation in Ukraine. It was bad. His wife was still there in quite a dangerous area, and he couldn’t go back there. So, on vacation, he had to meet his wife on the country’s border. I asked him what hope he had. ‘AM I God?’ he

said. I offered to pray for him, and he was grateful but wanted me off the ship.

As I left, praying as I went, the Lord impressed on me that there was something I should do. I had recently received copies of a booklet from our German SCFS (Seafarer Christian Friends Society) colleagues entitled 'True Stories of Hope'. The first true story is of a man who planned to kill his Captain. I couldn't get out of my mind the many similarities between this story and what I had just witnessed. I decided to email this booklet to the ship, but was anxious about how it would be received by the Captain. I then realized that my German colleagues had produced PDFs of the booklet in several languages, including 'Indonesian', the language of the chief. I duly emailed this through to the ship. Those of you who know about emailing to small ships will know that quite frequently the messages do not get through. Imagine my surprise, then, at receiving an immediate reply from the Captain thanking me for the booklet. By this, I was encouraged and proceeded to send him a copy in his own language. (Acts 2 v 11) . For this one, I also received a grateful email. May the Lord work according to Isaiah 55 v 11, 'My word that goes out from My mouth will not return to me empty'.



- Pray for "Y", an Indonesian cook who was in hospital in Surrey but now back home. He is a Muslim but several chaplains were able to visit him during his hospital stay. Pray for the seed sown and the continued follow up.
- Praise God for N, the wife of a Chinese Officer who came to faith in Jesus. Pray that she too would respond to the gospel.
- Pray for Christians contacted in Atlantic Canada concerning visiting ships with the Gospel, that doors would be opened, and that they would see the work of the Holy Spirit preparing sailors to receive the Word of God

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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*"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.