



God and god

Ray Hanna - LHM Senior Chaplain

In the Port of Vancouver, LHM chaplains meet sailors from many countries; therefore, we meet sailors of many religions. One comment I have heard from seafarers many times is, "There is only one God!"

I agree completely that there is only one true God. In a conversation a few weeks ago, I heard the one God comment again, which I quickly agreed to. I then wanted to explain further to the sailor about another god, the counterfeit god. Unfortunately, the sailor I was speaking with was called over the radio and had to leave our meeting quickly. Although these people are well-meaning, I believe what many are really implying is that all religions are worshipping, or following, the same God and that every religion leads to God and to heaven. I could not disagree more with this.

We know there is only one true God, but there is also an imposter, a counterfeit god, who pretends that he is God. He wants people to worship him rather than the one true God. So yes, there is only one true God, but there is also an imposter god. The true God was not created, but, as Psalm 90:2 states, "Lord, before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." But the fake god is a created being and has promoted himself to the position of god.

This god has deceived many into following and worshipping him, but he is a fake and cannot save them. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 11:14 "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light". He is a master counterfeiter, which means it is easy to be deceived by him. Ephesians 6 says "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Sadly, satan is a deceiver, a liar; many follow this god who will lead them into eternal punishment. We must warn them of danger because he has come to steal, kill and destroy. This god leads them to believe that they can be good enough to earn heaven.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly". We have to tell them about the Saviour God, Jesus Christ. He is the eternally existing One, the Holy and Righteous One, the One who died as a substitute for them. The Bible says of Him, "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5).

In the future, I pray that, when I hear someone say there is only one God, I will answer slowly, looking for an opportunity to warn them that there is also a counterfeit god, and that we must be very much aware of him because he is very deceptive. We want to be like a lighthouse, warning others of danger and guiding them to safety in Jesus Christ our Lord.

NOVEMBER

28

Save the Date
LHM Advent Luncheon
see details on page 3

Not His Own

Paul Ratsoy - LHM Chaplain

I was on board a Chinese-crewed ship recently and met Jin, one of the officers. This seafarer spoke English quite well and was friendly so the conversation between us progressed rather smoothly. At one point in our dialogue, Jin surprised me by posing a question about God. He asked me about the reason that, in the account of Job in the Bible, God had caused Job to suffer.

Surprised, but also inspired, by the seafarer's knowledge of this account, I tried to share with him some points I had learned about God's sovereignty and Job's possible limited personal experience of it. We looked at some Scripture together and Jin attended to this well. Through this, or perhaps as a result of this, the seafarer made a comment that amazed and encouraged me. He stated, "I just realized that I am not my own." This claim appeared to come from his recognition that God created all things and that he was also made by Him. I confirmed his new knowledge and continued to speak with him for a short time and then left Jin's ship.

A few days later, I visited Jin again aboard his ship. We spoke for some time about God's Word and I tried to encourage Jin to know Jesus. From his comments, it seemed like Jin would continue his exploration of truth as revealed in the Bible. I was blessed to know that this might happen.

God's work among seafarers, such as the example chronicled above, continues through the ministry of Lighthouse Harbour Ministries in the port of Vancouver. *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."* (Matthew 9:37). More labourers are needed to expand the outreach. Thus, if you are willing to leave your comfort zone and volunteer your time to reach out to seafarers with the Good News of Jesus, you might meet someone like Jin and be amazed – all for the glory of God!

Changing Families

Carl Dorozio - LHM Chaplain

Praise God! Ministry to seafarers does not stop with the crew we meet but can extend to families in countries around the world. I recently had the

joy of seeing a family be touched by God's grace, a blessing that began with a ship visit in Vancouver.

I met a Chinese seafarer, during Covid when his vessel came to Vancouver. He was very open to hearing about Jesus and receiving scriptures and other materials. We stayed in touch after he departed, and I was encouraged to see him want to keep communicating with me and be reading & listening to the materials given to him. But, what truly amazed me was that, on his next contract, when the vessel was coming to Vancouver, he expressed a



desire to become a Christian. I let him know that he did not need to wait until he got to Vancouver but could commit his life to Christ while at sea. However, he did wait, and as a result, I was able to meet up with him privately on his vessel and have the joy of hearing him pray in Mandarin and, in faith, commit his life to Christ.

This seafarer and I have continued to keep in touch, and in one of his messages, he let me know that his wife was coming to a university in eastern Canada to further her education as a teacher. It was a difficult time for his wife as she left their two children and came to an unfamiliar country. While she could speak English, it was a challenge at university. The seafarer asked me to contact her and encourage her and I was able to do this with the help of my wife Susan. We would video chat for an hour or so to practice English, get to know each other, and answer all kinds of questions about life in Canada. Several months later, Susan and I were able to extend a trip for meetings I had planned to attend and we visited with the seafarer's wife. She was very excited to see us and enjoyed eating a burger for the first time. We spent the evening visiting and chatting and were able to share the Gospel with her. Also, we left her with Gospel materials she could read and listen to. We then continued to meet online, but less frequently because of busy schedules; however, we still messaged each other.

One of my desires for the seafarer's wife was to connect her to a good church in her area, but it was a challenge to find one that I thought was

evangelical and would be a good fit. About a year ago, The seafarer let me know that he had arrived in Canada to stay with his wife for six months and that he had brought their oldest child, a boy about 7 years old. He also let me know he found a church, and I was encouraged by what he told me about it. He seemed to be growing and, at one point, gave me the exciting news that he was getting baptized. Later he sent me the video of his baptism and while watching it I cried and thanked God for the opportunity to be used by Him.

All three of them came to Vancouver last fall and my wife and I were able to visit with them for several days. They also came to our church and connected with some of the Mandarin brothers and sisters in our fellowship. The family continued to be involved in their home church, attending Bible studies and a church family camp. Recently, I asked the wife where she was in her commitment to Jesus. She let me know she had not yet made a commitment but was heading in that direction. In mid-August, I received a message from her husband in our group chat letting me know that she was going to be baptized! Again, tears came to me. I also gave thanks to God, and was very excited to learn that she had come to faith in Jesus.

Please pray for this couple and their son who is now growing up in Canada: that he would come to faith. Also please pray for their younger daughter, who is still in China. God willing, the wife will get a working visa, and if this happens, their daughter will come to live with them in Canada. Further, the seafarer's mother has been reading the Bible in China. This is just one family. But, my experience with them gives me hope, as we minister in Vancouver, trusting God to take His word far beyond those we encounter on the vessels we visit.



Hamburg, Germany

Micha Lamaack - Port Chaplain

A Bible That Changed a Life

We are Lydia and Micha Lamaack. Since the beginning of 2025 we have been serving as Port Chaplains with the Seafarers' Christian Friend Society (SCFS) in the Port of Hamburg, Germany. Micha serves full-time, while Lydia supports the ministry alongside her work as a pediatric physiotherapist. Last year, God allowed us to witness the fruit of a single encounter that had taken place more than thirty years earlier.



I (Micha) have known seafarers' ministry all my life, as my parents have served with the SCFS for the past 36 years. Last year, I attended a conference in the Philippines. After the conference, I joined a worship service organised by SCFS Philippines. At the end of the service, a Filipino man named Leo approached me and said, "I know your father."

I was surprised. Leo explained that in 1994, during a short visit to the Port of Hamburg, he had met my father for only a brief moment. That seemingly ordinary encounter would change the course of his life. At my request, Leo later wrote down his testimony:

"I grew up in deep poverty and became addicted to drugs and alcohol while I was still very young. As I grew older, I became involved in crime and prostitution. Even after beginning my career as a marine engineer, my life did not change. While working on board ships, I continued using drugs, drinking heavily, and living an immoral lifestyle.

Then, in 1994, our ship arrived at the Port of Hamburg. There I met a Port Chaplain from the Seafarers' Christian Friend Society (Micha's father),

You're Invited to:

LHM Advent Luncheon

**Saturday,
November 28th
Starts at 12 noon**
(doors open at 11:30)

Bethany Baptist Church
22680 Westminster Hwy
Richmond, BC



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

who offered me a Bible. From that day on, I began reading it. After a long period of wrestling, thinking, and reflecting, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal Saviour. I was saved by God's grace alone.

My colleagues noticed the change in me. I read the Bible every evening. I was mocked and insulted, but I had stopped drinking alcohol and had left my old lifestyle behind. I still use the Bible I received in Hamburg in 1994. The Port Chaplain in Hamburg continued to encourage my spiritual growth. I became involved in a Missionary Baptist Church and was later ordained as a deacon. Today I also volunteer with SCFS Manila, visiting ships and sharing the Gospel with seafarers."

Meeting Leo deeply encouraged us. Most of the time, we never know what becomes of a conversation, a ship visit, or a Bible placed into someone's hands. Yet God graciously allowed us to see the fruit of one faithful act of ministry more than thirty years after it occurred. A single Bible, handed out during a brief encounter in the Port of Hamburg, transformed a life forever. Today, Leo is sharing the Gospel while once again working as a marine engineer.



- For the Lord to open the hearts of Indian seafarers to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- For more volunteers and younger workers to join the Lord's work among seafarers
- For an Egyptian officer, A., to read the Gospel materials that he received and meet Jesus.
- For "O", an Indonesian Christian who is the only Christian on his vessel.
- For salvation for "I", an officer from Sri Lanka who was very happy to receive a Bible and audio player in his own language.
- For "M", the son of a Christian seafarer, as he starts to study the 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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***"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)

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