



# The Anchor

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## What Two Weeks Will Do to You

*Ben Niscavits*

I went out of the country for two weeks in the month of March. I went on a pre-site/vision trip to a country where my family and I will be moving next year. As I was in this city, one of the first days we went down to visit a slum area of the city. Many people living in this area have little to no access to clean water, let alone water even to take a bath in. For one moment, I want you to pause and think of all the ways we have clean water; the tap water, bottled water, even our toilet water is probably cleaner than the water these children are drinking.

As you reflect on that first point, I will continue my story. The next day we visited an IDP camp where over 700 families have been displaced here because of the floods last August. On this day we took part in distributing food to these families and praying for people. Many people died in these floods last year. Many were sick. I met one man whose face I will never forget. As I

asked him about his family, he told me, "Well I had five kids, but now I just have two." My heart hurt for this man, and I learned from that interaction with him that I must be grateful with what God has given me. Not that I had been ungrateful and this was a life lesson for my disobedience, but I am not experiencing any hardship like these families are, and I need not to complain one bit.

Lastly, while we were in that area of the slum, I noticed that it was down in the main port center. As I was passing by ships, I saw rows and rows of containers, and I thought, "Am I in New Orleans?" When I saw six people riding on a motorcycle, saw people driving on the opposite side of the road into oncoming traffic, and heard the call to prayer, I was quickly reminded that I was not in New Orleans any longer. However, my mind was thinking about the position in which I serve: I am meeting the needs of seafarers from all over the world and

praying for opportunities to meet a spiritual need by introducing these men to Christ. What a job! I love it. I appreciate being able to serve in this position, and two weeks made me appreciate the God I serve giving me a passion to reach internationals for the sake of the Gospel, whether here (in New Orleans) or there (the rest of the world). Both are important, not either-or. While I was in that country, I sent Philip a picture of the port and told him, "Hey! Thought you would like this." What was Philip's response back to me? "Ah, are you looking for a future ministry spot?" I laughed. Who knows? What I do know is that these two weeks were very beneficial for me and confirmed where God is leading us to go. I am reflecting on two things from this trip: appreciating what I have and remembering to live a life that honors Christ. May God use his people to reflect the light within us for the Gospel's sake.

## It's What's on the Inside That Counts

*Norman Mangum*

A few weeks ago, I picked up a young seafarer at the port and immediately recognized his face. When he entered the van, we exchanged our hellos and were off to the center. Along the way, he asked if Ben and Ron were working. I told him Ben was off, but Ron was at the center. He was excited to hear that because Ron and Ben had visited his ship the last time it was in port. He started talking about being a Christian and how he enjoyed them coming to the ship and talking with

him. He stated that there were not many Christians on board and he missed talking to fellow believers. As I drove to the center, I thought, "Tonight you have a lot of fellow Christians to talk to" because there was a group of collegiate kids from Georgia wanting to talk to somebody from a ship. We arrived at the center, and his remark was, "Oh, there are a lot of people here tonight." I said, "Yes, and they are all Christians." You would have thought he was a kid in a candy store.

He went inside and did not know which one he wanted to talk to first. After he had made his way around the room, he came over to where Philip and I were talking and pulled out of his front pocket a well-worn Bible. One of the corners was bent backwards, and the rest was ragged looking. He stated, "I cannot talk about Jesus unless I have my Bible." He also began to say that he had been witnessing to his fellow crew members and was trying to have a Bible

*(Continued on page 2)*

study on board the ship. I listened to his enthusiasm about being a Christian and accepting Christ in order to go to Heaven. He said he had been trying to tell that to the crew. Philip and I offered him some literature, hoping it would help him with his Bible study. I also went over to the shelf and got him a new Bible.

As I thought about his little Bible, I was reminded about a young girl who attended our church before Katrina. Her Bible was held together with duct tape of different colors. I remembered it being red, yellow, and blue. She held on to that duct-taped Bible as though it

was her last possession, just like he did his. I began to think about these two Bibles. Both were well-used and were their owners' pride and joy. It brought them happiness and comfort. I also began to think about the lives of Christians. Is your cover ragged and worn, or does it look like you just bought it at Gucci's department store and have never used it? I gave it some more thought. Does the cover really matter? It is what is on the inside that tells the story. What kind of story is between your cover? Will we find God's Word between the cover? Is there joy, happiness, peace, contentment, and willing-

ness to help others? What about encouragement for your fellow man? Would we find love like Jesus showed? Or would we find resentment, hatred, retaliation, disparaging thoughts, and sarcasm? Would Jesus be pleased with what is between the cover? I can't tell what is between the covers of people I meet; I can only go by what they tell me. But it is like a professor I once had who said, "If you read the Bible enough, the truth begins to come out." The cover really does not matter. What really matters is that your walk with Christ shines through the cover.

## Six Years Later

Sandy Vandercook

In the kind of work we do, we do not always know when or if we will see some of our seafaring friends again after they have "signed off" the ship and gone either to another ship or home on vacation. Sometimes, however, God gives us the opportunity to renew friendships when we least expect it. Such is the case with Eric.

Our family first met Eric when he was working aboard the Carnival *Conquest* back in 2004-2005. In 2004, we had not yet built the ministry center, so most of our work with seafarers was done aboard the ships. Our family spent every Sunday aboard the *Conquest*. One of the first people we met was "Pastor" Eric. At first, we knew Eric as the grill cook who cooked hamburgers and french fries at the grill on the back of the Lido deck. Because my girls love french fries, we usually made at least one stop at the grill each Sunday, and by doing so, we struck up a friendship with Eric. After a few weeks of casual conversation, we soon learned that Eric was active in the Bible study

aboard the ship. He was one of the leaders of the Bible study, and he often requested study materials from Philip so that he could prepare for the services he helped lead for the crew. We came to find out that Eric had been a pastor in the Philippines, and he felt that part of his call from God was to work aboard the ships not only to earn money to support his family but to minister to crew members.

Each Sunday as we passed by the grill for the girls' french fries, we got to spend time with Eric. When his contract ended and he was going home to the Philippines for vacation, we bid a sad farewell (as is common in our work), not knowing when we would see him again this side of heaven. Eric did not know which ship in the Carnival fleet would be his next place of service, but he knew that God would send him to a ship that needed some Christian encouragement. After Hurricane Katrina forced the ship to relocate, we lost touch with other crew members

whom we had befriended and who had Eric's contact information.

Fast forward to last month. Philip asked me to come to the center one day because he wanted me to meet someone. Imagine my surprise when I walked in to the center to be greeted by Eric! He had spent the last six years on many of Carnival's ships, only to be assigned to the *Triumph* which of course home-ports in New Orleans. No longer a grill cook, Eric now works as a photographer. He is still actively sharing his faith and is working hard to encourage the small group of Christians meeting about the *Triumph*. The leadership of the Bible study on a cruise ship constantly changes as leaders sign off, so Eric is stepping up to be a leader of the Bible study group.

We have been blessed to renew our friendship with Eric. One of the joys of the cruise ship ministry is seeing God's faithfulness in the lives of our seafaring friends. Eric is a reminder of God's goodness.

**In Memory**

**In Memory of:**

Mr. Sidney H. Caillouet  
Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Kennedy  
Mr. Curtis Lawrence

Dr. C.H. Melton  
Mrs. Vinita Wood

**Given by:**

Mr. David Caillouet  
Mrs. Diann Kennedy Wingo  
Elizabeth Baptist Church,  
Elizabeth, Louisiana

Mrs. Vera Melton  
Dr. & Mrs. Myron Madden

**In Honor**

**In Honor of:**

Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum  
Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum  
Mrs. Lona Rhew  
Rev. John Vandercook  
Rev. John Vandercook

**Given by:**

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Andrews  
Mrs. Marjorie Winstead  
Mrs. Melissa Poag  
Mr. Joe Earl Watford  
Mr. Thomas Brunet

**Building Fund / Square Foot Fund**

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Mr. & Mrs. Pete DePaoli  
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Mr. & Mrs. John O'Hara  
Mrs. Melissa Poag  
Mr. Wayne Tubbs  
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Mr. & Mrs. Steve Turner

Please visit our website at  
[WWW.PORTMINISTRY.COM](http://WWW.PORTMINISTRY.COM)

to find our more about upcoming events, to find out more about the ministry, to send us a message, and to donate online.

We would love to hear from you!

**2011 Statistics**

(through March 2011)

<i>Ships visited</i>	88
<i>Seafarers contacted</i>	3,138
<i>Port workers contacted</i>	215
<i>Countries represented</i>	50
<i>Seafarers visiting center</i>	1,794
<i>Professions of faith</i>	3
<i>Scriptures distributed</i>	34
<i>Jesus videos</i>	12
<i>Courtesy trips</i>	200

**2011 Budget Requirements**

<i>Budget needs</i>	\$ 75,000.00
<i>Budget income</i>	\$ 72,655.42
<i>Building fund balance</i>	(\$367464.50)

**Do you have a motor home?**

If so, we need your help. We are looking for caring Christians who will come and help us share the love of Christ with the world. Would you consider spending a few days, or a few weeks, volunteering with the ministry? We have full hook-ups at both ministry centers for your motor home. Why don't you give us a call today and schedule a time to come and do your part to change the world?

For more information, please call 800-413-4762 or email [info@portministry.com](mailto:info@portministry.com).

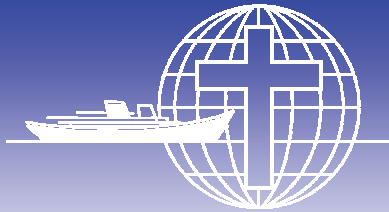
**Volunteer Blessings**

Ron Townsend

As I was reading through my Bible this morning, I was reminded of a passage in Matthew 9:37-38 where Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." I and the other members on staff have been praying for more volunteers (workers), and we are seeing our prayers answered. I am so thankful for

each and every person who has donated his or her time and work to this ministry. Each week we have volunteers here at the center almost every night, and on the weekends groups traveling from afar have come to give of their time to minister to and share with the seafarers. The seafarers really do appreciate the volunteers because the seafarers tell us chaplains how much they enjoyed talking and playing games with the volun-

teers. My prayer is that if you're not a part of volunteering at the center, then you should prayerfully consider doing so. You are missing out on such a wonderful time of ministry that does have an eternal impact on lives. Volunteers are a true blessing to this ministry. If you or your group would like to know how you can minister, please contact us via email ([info@portministry.com](mailto:info@portministry.com)) or phone (504-895-2028).



# Global Maritime Ministries, Inc.

*Global Maritime Ministries exists to provide holistic Christian ministry by meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of seafarers and maritime workers .*

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## **A Golden Opportunity**

*Philip Vandercook*

Soon, we will celebrate a very special occasion. In 2013, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ministry. What a milestone! It deserves a very special celebration. In fact, we have already begun to make plans for this once-in-a-lifetime event.

How do you mark such an occasion? There has to be a proper way to celebrate all that God has done through this ministry. There has to be a way to honor all of the people who have given their time, finances, prayers, encouragement, hard work, and other gifts in order to make this all possible. This milestone cannot be marked simply with a big cake or even a party. No, this milestone demands much more.

We want to make this a very special occasion, a time to reflect on all that God has provided over the years and how He has used this ministry to

change the hearts of people from all over the world. We need to celebrate all that God has done, and we want to be sure God gets all the glory.

We also want to make sure that we celebrate all the folks who have done so much to keep this ministry active over the past 50 years. Because of the dedication of the many staff members, volunteers, supporters, executive board members, and prayer warriors, we have the chance to celebrate such an anniversary. We have no adequate way to say thank you for all you have done, but we promise to give it our best effort starting now: THANK YOU!

Still, we need to do something so big, so special, so unbelievable, that we can only say God did it. I think that would be a great way to commemorate this golden anniversary. And yes, I have an idea. I think it would be won-

derful if we could begin the next 50 years of ministry debt free! What if at the annual meeting in January 2013 we started our celebration by burning the note on the ministry center in New Orleans?

If we pay off the note early, we can use the funds we were giving to the bank to hire more staff, and the ministry can continue to grow. In fact, paying of the note would save the ministry \$189,000.00 in interest payments. To put that in perspective, that would provide for sixty-three percent of this year's budget. It will be a challenge, but it can be done. In fact, it would only take 350 people to give a one-time gift of \$1,000.00 and we would pay of the debt. Three people have already accepted this challenge, so we are on our way. Let the celebration begin!