



# The Anchor

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## Where Is God?

*Norman Mangum*

I received a phone call on a recent Monday morning during our staff meeting telling me that a young man, a twenty-two-year-old port worker, had been hit by a car while changing his tire. His right leg was hit just below the knee. You would think that if you were hit by a car traveling at the speed of 60 mph or more, you would have more injuries. I am not making light of the injury to his leg, but you would think there would be more injuries to the body. Luckily, the young man who hit him stopped to assist in any way he could, and that was by calling 911. When the ambulance arrived at the hospital, the doctors had to give the young man twenty-two pints of blood. The injury resulted in his leg being amputated below the knee. At the hospital, I spent a few hours with his mom, dad, and grandparents. They told me that he had made a profession of faith about a year ago. This young man and his loved ones have a long road to travel. They are going to need a lot of help and prayers.

A few weeks ago my wife went to the doctor for her diabetes and was told they

felt something around her thyroid. They asked her to come back to have a biopsy done to see if there was something there that should not be. A few days later the doctor called and said that she had some nodules and that there was a 5% to 10% chance of cancer. She was told that she needed to see a surgeon to set a date to have her thyroid and the nodules removed. When we sat down with the surgeon, he stated that now there was a 20% to 30% chance that the nodules were cancerous. My thoughts were if we see another doctor the chances may be 50/50. So, he pulled out his calendar to set a date to have the surgery done when Priscilla stated that she would like to have it done at the end of February because she wanted to travel to North Carolina to visit our daughters. He did not want to wait that long, so the date was set for January 26<sup>th</sup>. We arrived at the hospital at 6:30 a.m. to get her prepped for surgery. After about two and a half hours, the doctor came out to say everything went well. Today we were overjoyed to find out that the nodules were 100% benign.

Where is God? I have been told He is everywhere. The Bible tells us this from the beginning to the end. God was with the young man on the side of the road. He was with the one who stopped to help. He was at the hospital with me because He sent three dear friends to sit with me in the waiting room. He was with three young Filipino cargo ship guys who came to the hospital to make sure Priscilla and I were okay. One of the young men said he had told his mom back in the Philippines what was taking place that day, and she told him that she and her church were praying for Priscilla's recovery. Today, January 30<sup>th</sup>, I went to Norwegian *Spirit* and was met by several crew members inquiring how her surgery went and saying that last Monday night, they held a prayer vigil for her. People from all over the world were praying for her, people from countries such as the Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, Ukraine, Peru, and Jamaica, to name a few. God heard the prayers from more than twenty different countries. I now have a better understanding that God really is everywhere.

## Bibles and Blessings

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet with a seafarer from the Philippines who is a cook on one of the cargo ships. We get to minister to the crew of this particular ship every forty-five days. This gentleman was very excited to see us. Previously, Ben and I had given the crew some Bibles in their language. The seafarer from the Philippines wanted to let Ben and me know that he had given a Bible to one of his

shipmates and had the chance to lead him to Jesus. Now that seafarer was sharing the good news about Jesus with his family. It was truly a blessing to know that this all started by giving out Bibles to seafarers. The gift of Bibles is only possible because of your generous donations to Global Maritime. As we were preparing to leave the ship, we were blessed by the seafarer. He asked if he could pray for us, our families,

*Ron Townsend*

and the ministry. It was humbling to have a brother in Christ, who was so far away from his family, praying for us. The chaplains are the ones who are ministering to and praying for them, yet this gentleman wanted to pray for us. The church, or the body of Christ, is not dependent on a church building. We were blessed to see the body of Christ in action on a cargo ship with a Filipino seafarer. What a blessing!

## You Can, Too!

John and Gay O'Hara

How would you like to support the ministry of Global Maritime while enjoying a cruise in the Caribbean? When we read in *The Anchor* of the opportunity to sail on the Carnival *Triumph* with other supporters of Global Maritime Ministries, we jumped at the chance!

Early on a foggy morning in November, we drove from our home in Pensacola, Florida, to the cruise ship terminal in New Orleans. We had been praying beforehand that the Lord would provide opportunities for us to minister to the other guests at our dining room table, and also to the waiter and busboy. Boy, did God answer our prayers! We arrived at our assigned table that evening to be greeted by the Vandercooks, along with the Wargos and the Sims, who also support Global Maritime Ministries. Our waiter, Richard, and busboy, Ranilo, welcomed us with broad smiles. They were from the Philippines, where we had been stationed in the Navy for two years, so we had an immediate connection with them. When Philip asked Richard if there was a Bible study for the crewmembers onboard the ship, Richard responded, "I play the guitar for the Bible study group!" This was a providential connection with the Christian crewmembers, and Philip was able to go down to the crew quarters later that week for a time of Bible study, prayer, and fellowship with them. Our busboy, Ranilo, mentioned that he had visited the Port Ministry Center in New Orleans previously. We also enjoyed meeting our room steward, Albertus, and his assistant, Lilis, both of whom were from Indonesia. I told Albertus about the Bible study group meeting with Philip, and he stopped by.

Going on a cruise with Global Maritime doesn't mean that you won't have time for the other activities onboard the ship. We met for Bible study as a group for about an hour the three mornings that the ship was "at sea." It was wonderful to meet other couples who support Global Maritime and have the same vision for ministry to crewmembers onboard the many cruise and cargo ships that travel in and out of New Orleans – the busiest port in the United States! During these times of fellowship, Philip gave us practical ways in which we could minister to the crewmembers, such as asking about their families, graciously thanking them for their service, and letting them know about the Port Ministry Center. Our waiter, Richard, was able to join us one day and feverishly took notes as George Sims led the Bible study- he was so hungry for God's Word! Richard shared how difficult it is for the crewmembers to work such long hours, often without even a smile from other cruise ship passengers. He also shared how much they all miss their families, as they serve onboard the ship for about nine months a year. The crewmembers we met were from India, Indonesia, Romania, and the Philippines. Many other nationalities are represented onboard, as well.

We enjoyed the other amenities onboard the ship, in addition to the port visits to Belize, Roatan, and Cozumel. What an opportunity to marvel at God's creation, although I was glad when our cave-tubing ride ended

in Belize! (Crossing a swiftly moving river by rope isn't my cup of tea!)

The next time that Global Maritime has a group going on a cruise ship, I'd encourage you to join them. You'll have a great time, and you can really see what Global Maritime Ministries is all about as you minister to the crew. There were about 25 of us sailing on the Carnival *Triumph*, and this enabled both the Vandercooks and the Mangums to join us so that they could make the connections with the crew. Both Philip and Norman now have access to visit the ship when it arrives in port. The cruise also gave these staff members an opportunity to relax with their families- even missionaries need a vacation! Anna and Amy Vandercook and I enjoyed going on our own scavenger hunt on board, and my husband, John, enjoyed talking with Philip over coffee each morning.

Fun and ministry, all in one, onboard the Carnival *Triumph* with Global Maritime Ministries!



The O'Haras and the wait staff aboard the Carnival *Triumph*. From L to R: Ranilo, Gay, Richard, John, and Igor.

**In Memory**

<b>In Memory of:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>
<i>Ms. Vickie Fangué</i>	<i>Mrs. Mary Catchings</i>
<i>Rev. David Hudnall</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Roger Whittington</i>
<i>Wilson &amp; Esther Whittington</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Roger Whittington</i>

**In Honor**

<b>In Honor of:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>
<i>Rev. &amp; Mrs. Norman Mangum</i>	<i>Mrs. Marjorie Winstead</i>

**Building Fund / Square Foot Fund**

<i>Mrs. T.L. Colvin</i>	<i>Rev. &amp; Mrs. Norman Mangum</i>
<i>Mr. Charles Cook</i>	<i>Mrs. Cheryl B. Santos</i>
<i>Mrs. Mary Ellen Logan</i>	

**2011 Statistics**

<i>Ships visited</i>	30
<i>Seafarers contacted</i>	1,206
<i>Port workers contacted</i>	86
<i>Countries represented</i>	15
<i>Seafarers visiting center</i>	698
<i>Professions of faith</i>	0
<i>Scriptures distributed</i>	10
<i>Jesus videos</i>	4
<i>Courtesy trips</i>	57

**2011 Budget Requirements**

<i>Budget needs</i>	\$ 25,000.00
<i>Budget income</i>	\$ 13,796.27
<i>Building fund balance</i>	(\$365,447.15)

**An Open Invitation**

Do you have a motor home? Would you like to make a difference? Would you like to change the world? What are you waiting for, an invitation? Well here it is!

Did you know that we have a space to park a motor home at each of our ministry centers? These spaces were installed so that we would have a place for you to come, stay, and be a part of the ministry. While you are here, you can use your gifts and talents to share the love of Christ with the world! We need your help hosting seafarers at the center, doing cleaning and maintenance, baking, driving a van, leading a Bible study with port personnel, and sharing the Gospel. In other words, you can be a part of every area of the ministry. Think of the implications. Just imagine that you had the opportunity to share the Good News with one seafarer from a closed country. He asks Jesus to be his Boss and Rescuer, and his life is changed. He goes home on vacation, tells his family what has hap-

pened, shows them the Bible you gave him, and for the very first time, they hear about a God who loves them unconditionally. They share this message with other family members and neighbors. Soon, they are meeting together for Bible study. God has used you to change the world!

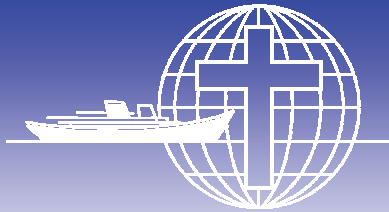
You might say, "That sounds great, but I could never do that." Why not? Others have! In fact, Don and Carolyn Bauman have spent six weeks here at the center helping with the ministry. They cleaned the center, improved the landscaping, helped to work on the second floor of the building, washed the vans, did maintenance to the building, cooked countless cookies/brownies/cakes, and helped to make the center more inviting for the seafarers. When the seafarers arrived, they welcomed them, served them, loved on them, and shared Jesus. I can hon-

*Philip Vandercook*

estly say that they were a huge help! It was like having two extra staff people every day. What a help and a blessing! We were able to accomplish so much more because of their presence.

Consider this your invitation. Please contact us and schedule a time to come and help. We have a full hook up for your motor home. We would love to have someone parked in these spaces year 'round. What are you waiting for? Come and change the world.





# 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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## Technology and the Gospel

As destructive as the internet can be to families and individuals who abuse the privilege of having internet, the internet is a great resource for ministry. You can promote your website, find out information about people groups or cities, and even see the pictures of what is going on in the ministry. One of my favorite websites is Google translate. You can look up many languages and translate phrases into many foreign dialects.

About five months ago, a ship came in port. The crew were mostly Filipinos who spoke English, but there was a Japanese man whose English was basic enough to try and communicate but not much. Smiling and pointing were our main sources of communication. I was sitting at the front desk on the internet just browsing around when he came up and we began talking in short conversa-

tions. We both kept smiling because I don't think either of us understood each other. I then remembered, "Hey, I'm in front of the internet. Why am I not using Google translate?" I then got on the website and began talking through typing phrases into the website and conversing in Japanese. Although he could not speak back perfectly in English, he tried his best to communicate back to me.



*Ben Niscavits*

While I had him in this moment, I thought again, "Hey, why don't I share the gospel through this?" So, I did! I explained the whole gospel using Google translate. Even though he could not clearly communicate back to me, I would constantly ask him, "Does this make sense? Am I confusing you?" He kept asking me to continue and that he was not confused. I am not sure if he had read a Bible before, but I gave him one. I took about 30 minutes to write out an explanation of what the Bible was about, how to pray, and how to ask Christ for salvation and then translated this over to Japanese. He was so happy and kept saying "Arigato"--which means "Thank you" in Japanese. Please pray for Misuta Kawasaki--yes, like the motorcycle--that he will one day understand the Gospel and his need for Christ.