

The Anchor



Volume 26 Number 1
January 2011

Published Monthly by Global Maritime Ministries, Inc.

Looking Forward

Philip Vandercook

A new year is always exciting. Maybe it is the feeling of a fresh start or a new beginning. I am very excited about what God is going to do in this new year! Please add one more resolution to your list. Would you join me in praying daily for this ministry? Pray that we will not miss any opportunity God provides to minister in the port. Then, thank God in advance for what He will do!

There is much to be excited about in the new year. First, I am very happy to say that we will end 2010 in the black financially. Thanks to your generosity, your faithful support, and the hard work of our staff to be good stewards of all that God has provided, we have once again ended the year in a positive financial position. This is a true blessing!

We are also beginning to see an steady increase in the number of cargo ships coming to the port. While we are hoping this is a good sign that the economy is beginning to improve, it definitely means that we will be seeing more seafarers coming to the port and more opportunities for ministry.

The new year will also bring changes to the ministry with the crews of the cruise ships calling on New Orleans. This new year will bring two new ships each week. In September, the *Carnival Triumph* will be replaced with a larger ship, the *Carnival Conquest*. Carnival will also bring the *Ecstasy* to port to do four-day and five-day cruises. In November, Royal Caribbean will bring the *Voyager of the Seas* to New Orleans. Together with the Norwegian *Spirit*, this

means that each week there will be four cruise ships docking in New Orleans bringing over four thousand crewmembers from over seventy countries. What an opportunity for ministry! What an opportunity to share the Gospel!

As you can see, our biggest need this year will be more help. Because of all of the security regulations and restrictions limiting access to the port, we will need additional paid staff who will have the proper credentials to enter the port and visit on the ships. We are also in great need of volunteers, especially local ones, who will come and minister at the center. There are several new ministries we would like to start this year, but we will need your help. First, we are looking for volunteers who will come and help on the days that the cruise ships are in port. We need folks who will come and visit with the seafarers, share the Gospel, help with transportation, and lead a Bible study. We also want to have the center open each day for the port workers to be able to come and have lunch. In fact, we even want to provide lunch one day a week. This will give us the opportunity to build relationships with them and let them get comfortable coming to the building; hopefully this will lead to a weekly Bible study time. To do this, we will need volunteers to commit to being here to welcome them when they arrive.

Great progress has been made on completing the second floor of our ministry center in New Orleans. We are very close to completing the electrical, air-conditioning, and sprinkler systems. The biggest tasks left are to install the flooring and furnish this area. This part

of the building is designed as a place for volunteer teams to stay when they come to help with the ministry. Having these teams come to the center will allow us to do even more ministry. There is also a small apartment on the second floor that will be used to house long-term volunteers or student interns. We are very excited to see this phase of the building completed!

This year will mark forty-eight years of ministry in the Port of New Orleans. In just two short years, we will be celebrating the ministry's fiftieth anniversary. In fact, we have already begun to make plans to celebrate this milestone. I think that we have come up with a worthy way to mark this special occasion. At our annual meeting in January 2013, we want to burn the note on the building and start our next fifty years debt free! There are also some very practical reasons for paying off this debt early. First, the money we are paying to the bank could be used to employ additional chaplains. Second, we can save approximately \$189,000.00 in interest expenses. It is a great challenge, but it is a worthy goal. In fact, if 350 people would give \$1,000.00, we could pay off the debt completely! Like any task, if you break it down, it does not sound quite as difficult. For example, you could choose to give \$50.00 a month for the next twenty months.

Again, thank you for your faithful prayers and your generous support. Please pray for us as we begin this exciting new year and as we begin planning for our fiftieth anniversary. I can't wait to see what God will do this year!

When God Gives You a Gift

“When God gives you a gift, don’t close your hand. He may want to replace it with a better one.” When I moved to New Orleans three years ago, these were some of the first words I heard from my pastor, Rob Wilton, whose father, Don Wilton, had told him previous years back. Those two sentences have been instrumental in my understanding of the gifts God has given me. I used to be a drummer in a rock band six years ago. Drumming was everything to me. I was a Christian and loved Jesus and wanted to combine that part of my life with my drumming. Obviously God had other plans for me, which he generally does for all of us when we begin to wrap our lives around his plans. As I got married, our band was breaking up, and I was soon to be an interim youth pastor at a church in Texas. As I pursued ministry, drumming became less and less important; spreading the Gospel and making disciples replaced that desire. This is not to say that my drumming was evil or was Satan’s way to deter me from God’s plan. No. It was just not what I was supposed to be doing to further the kingdom.

As I moved forward in ministry, a desire for the international communities, particularly Muslims and those in the 10/40 window, was placed on my heart, and I knew that this was the gift that God wanted me to have. I have a gift in connecting with internationals, and I utilize my strengths in communication, sincerity, and love to spread the Gospel to the many people whom we encounter on the ships each day.

I say all of this now to share a little joy that God allowed me to experience this last Sunday with the Norwegian Spirit. We pick up the crew members

every week, and I have become great friends with some of the band members. Since I am a drummer, I get along with many drummers, and we tend to think alike. Norman and Priscilla go on the ship every week as chaplains, and on this particular Sunday, Norman needed my help in passing out Christmas presents to the crew members. I happily went with him.



Ben and some of the band members aboard the Norwegian Spirit

We started passing out gifts around 9:30 a.m. and finished passing everything out around 12:00 pm. We ate lunch and talked with people until around 1:00pm. Oneil, the drummer, was eating lunch at the same time and asked if I wanted to come and watch their show at 1:45. I told him I would be there. As I reached the floor the show was on, I realized it was where everyone was boarding the ship in the

Ben Niscavits

main lobby area. As I stood from a distance, I locked eyes with all the band members so that they knew I was watching and cheering them on. After they finished their first song, Oneil looked at me and stood up offering me the sticks to play a song. It had been months since I had played and years since I had played for long periods of time, but I of course accepted. I ran up the stairs and sat down on the throne and asked if I could just play a beat while they played grooves over it. Well, thirty minutes later as I played with my eyes closed, focusing on my beat, I looked up to see Norman in front of me with his hands up, signaling “What are you doing up there?” I was having fun, I thought to myself. I got to play four songs with them, and it was such a great time.

Reflecting back on my experience with those guys, I was reminded of the opening sentence to this article. God gave me the gift of drumming, but temporarily took it from me to show me a better way. Yet, He let me experience the joy again of playing drums on a ship and using it as a way to connect with band guys to advance the Gospel. God does not give us gifts for the advancement of ourselves. He loans them to us for the advancement of His Kingdom. May we use the gifts that God has given us to promote His glory in all nations!

Special Prayer Request

I have often heard that change is the one constant in life. There have been many changes in the past year. One change concerns our ministry in Reserve, Louisiana. Steve and Ann Corbin’s time as Mission Service Corps volunteers has come to and end. Please pray with us as we work to fill this position and continue the ministry in the Port of South Louisiana. As we look for new volunteers, we will also be doing some much needed repairs and upgrades to the ministry center.

In Honor

In Honor of:

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Anastascio
 Mr. & Mrs. Ben Blackwell
 Mrs. Gail Bonvillain
 Mrs. Mary Champion
 Mrs. Mary Champion
 Mr. Audrey Cook
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gunn
 Mr. Drew Holifield
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Howell
 Ms. Sandra Jervey
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Mangum
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Mangum
 Dr. Joe McKeever
 Mr. Matt Mutarelli
 Mrs. Mary Poirier
 Dr. & Mrs. Tom Roote Jr.
 Dr. & Mrs. Tom Roote Jr.
 Mr. John Vandercook
 Mr. John Vandercook
 Mr. John Vandercook
 Mr. Mike Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Philip Vandercook

Given by:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fortenberry
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gunn
 Bridge Builders' Class
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Holifield
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Fleenor
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Dacon Laird
 Mrs. Margie Winstead
 Col. Chet Griffin
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Mangum
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. David Roote
 Mr. & Mrs. James Lowe
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gunn
 Bridge Builders' Class
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Vandercook

Building Fund / Square Foot Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cook
 Mr. Charles Crowther
 Mr. & Mrs. Pete DePaoli
 Mrs. Mary Hart
 Ms. Peggy McLean
 Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Horrell
 St. Clair Baptist Church
 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Tubbs
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Turner

Did You Know?

Gifts given in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one go into our general ministry budget unless otherwise designated. Such gifts help us continue to meet the financial needs of the ministry. Any gifts designated for a specific line-item in the budget (such as the building fund or the square foot fund) are used for that specific purpose only.

2010 Statistics

<i>Ships visited</i>	400
<i>Seafarers contacted</i>	13,753
<i>Port workers contacted</i>	923
<i>Countries represented</i>	115
<i>Seafarers visiting center</i>	8,427
<i>Professions of faith</i>	20
<i>Scriptures distributed</i>	1,012
<i>Jesus videos</i>	60
<i>Courtesy trips</i>	2,646

2010 Budget Requirements

<i>Budget needs</i>	\$ 280,000.00
<i>Budget income</i>	\$ 282,281.07
<i>Building fund balance</i>	(\$367,729.92)

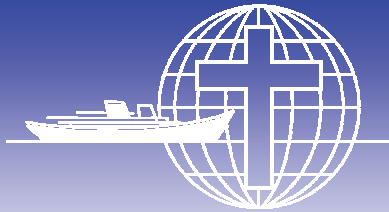
In Memory

In Memory of:

Mrs. Betty Corbin
 Kelly Clark
 Mr. Les Clark
 Mr. Glen B. Davis
 Mrs. Hazel Gunn
 Mr. Robert Gwin
 Mr. John Hart
 Mr. Leon Hodnett
 Mr. John A Howarth, Jr.
 Mrs. Martha S. Howarth
 Ms. Betty Jacobs
 Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Kennedy
 Mr. Marlin E. Leavell
 Dr. C.H. Melton
 Mrs. Lois Russell
 Mrs. Lois Russell
 Mrs. Marie Townsend
 Mrs. Marie T ownsend
 Mrs. Bea Horn Waller

Given by:

Mr. & Mrs. E. Gary Rice
 Ms. Jo Ellen Clark
 Ms. Jo Ellen Clark
 Mrs. Rose Davis
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Henson
 Mrs. Joy Scriber
 Mrs. Mary Hart
 Mrs. Dorothy Hodnett
 Mr. Harry Howarth
 Mr. Harry Howarth
 Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Horrell
 Ms. Diann Wingo
 Mrs. Marlin E. Leavell
 Mrs. Vera Melton
 Mrs. Mary B. Jones
 Ms. Peggy McLean
 Mrs. Gail Bonvillain
 Rev. John Vandercook
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Henson



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 .

3635 Tchoupitoulas Street
P. O. Box 750787
New Orleans, LA 70175

Web Site
www.PortMinistry.com

Phone
504-895-2028

Fax
504-895-2029

Toll Free
1-800-413-4762

E-mail
Info@PortMinistry.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
New Orleans, LA
Permit No. 820

Merry Christmas, or Is It?



I know that you are reading this article in January, but Christmas just passed and I wanted to write about Christmas. You might ask, "Why did you not write it in December?" My answer is, "Just because I am writing it now."

Christmas is not one of my favorite times of the year because everyone gets in the high-speed mode. You can walk into the department stores and it looks like a stampede of cows and bulls coming at you. People are so frantic that they forget half the stuff they came to buy. Everyone wants to be first in line when the stores open up so they can get the best deal, or so they think. People

are so stressed and tempers are short and time is running out. That is when you see the Scrooges of Christmas attacking everything in sight. They are like snakes corralled and ready to strike any person or persons reaching for the item they are wanting to purchase. You expect to see people wearing camouflage suits with their faces painted as if they are going off to war, with credit cards raised and ready to take aim at the credit card machine at the cash register. Clear the aisles; Rambo has entered the building.

Now on a calmer note, I like to take the stress off my wife and kids when it comes to Christmas. Just buy me a Starbucks gift card and I am happy. That way I can sit and sip on my coffee and watch ladies with ten bags of gifts and two kids hanging on each leg, as though

Norman Mangum

they were firemen hanging from a fire truck, running through the malls trying to get the perfect gift.

We often forget what Christmas is all about. We have the perfect gift available for us. All that we have to do is ask for it. That gift is to ask Jesus into our hearts. I had the pleasure of baptizing a young man from India the week before Christmas. He came into the center and walked up to me saying he wanted to be baptized. I was taken aback because I had never had anyone to do that before. I asked him if he had asked Jesus into his heart and he replied, "Yes." So, I took him into the chapel and baptized him. That was the best gift that I could have received this year. Keep praying for us and the men and women on the ships that we may have more opportunities like this