

# The Anchor



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## Smoking for Jesus

*Ben Niscavits*

Of course I know this title might sound confusing, and you're wondering, What is Ben talking about? Well, I am glad I have your attention. About two months ago a ship on the westbank was seized by the Coast Guard, and we have been ministering to the crew for that time period. They still have not been paid their salary at least for four months, and they are still awaiting court cases to know when they will be able to sail again. If you will, please remember these men in prayer for their families, for their court cases, and for their mental stability during this difficult situation.

About three weeks ago, Ron and I had the thought of cooking a meal for these men on the ship. The countries that are represented are Georgia (the country, not the state), Honduras, and Greece. As Ron and I decided what we should make for these guys, I said, "Why don't we barbeque? We'll make a big feast and see if our families can come with us." I love to smoke meats; it is a way of relaxing for me. I talked with Ravaz, a member of the crew, to see if the captain would allow us to make a meal for them. We of course got permission. The only hang up was a security guard that sometimes does not allow people to come onto the ship. Knowing that there was a possibility of not getting onto the ship, I continued to pray that this security guard would not be there on the day of the barbeque. The other hang up was that there was an expectation of rain the day I would need to be barbequing. I would love to say that God held the rain, but that did not happen. I did, however, have the pit under a

cover, but the rain was flying sideways and very hard. I therefore had to retreat to sit inside my truck until the rain passed. During that time I slept, played a game, and read my Bible. The meat finished smoking, and I took everything home and got it prepared for the upcoming barbeque feast.

At 6:00 p.m., I called Ravaz to make sure everything would be ok to come aboard ship to eat with the crew. He told me he would go check who the security guard would be and would call me back. As we waited in response, we continued driving to the ship expecting to get on. As I pulled up to the entrance, I got a call back from Ravaz, and he said, "Mr. Ben, have no worries; the security guard will let you on the ship." Our prayers were answered. Both Ron and I had brought our families, together totaling 9 (10 if you count my pregnant wife due in 5 weeks), and we all went on ship and ate with the crew. They then gave us a tour of the ship (the engine room, the main area where they store the cargo, and the top deck where they drive the ship). This was such a wonderful experience not only for our families who rarely get a chance to see us working with our internationals friend, but also for us and the crew to further our relationships that we

began two months ago. We already have many invitations to come visit Honduras and Georgia and have been told we would be taken care of. Now is the point of just getting there and visiting!

What a blessing it is to use the gifts and passions of my heart to be able to minister to internationals. Smoking meats and sharing Christ are things I love to do. What passions and gifts has God given you, and how are you using them to benefit the Kingdom of God? As you reflect on these things God has bestowed upon you for his glory, pray about a way that you can begin using those gifts to benefit the kingdom of God here in your own city and the rest of the world. You may possess a giving heart. Maybe you like to cook, or you build things. Whatever it may be, God wants you to use it for his glory. Be looking for opportunities to use your services for Christ. God bless you, and may you continue to desire to serve God with your life.



*Ben, Ron, and their families aboard the Americana for a time of food and fellowship*

## Four is A Plenty; Five Is Too Many!

Norman Mangum

A couple of Sundays ago I boarded the Norwegian *Spirit* as usual. I went into the crew mess area speaking to every individual in the room. I made my way to the fourth floor passing out candy and talking to the room stewards. Everything was normal; as always, I was making my way up and down each hall when suddenly one of the room stewards asked me if I had seen one of the young ladies who works on the tenth floor. I told him that I had not made my way up there as of yet but I would see her soon. He said that she needed to see me really badly. I asked, "Is she sick or what is wrong?" He said, "She wants to talk to you; you need to go see her." I went on up to the tenth floor looking for Eleanor (name changed to protect her identity). I saw one of her helpers, and he told me she was looking for me. He said, "I will go get her." I was puzzled some what as to what she wanted, but I would soon find out.

Eleanor came up to me, and I could tell something was really bothering her by the look on her face. I asked, "Eleanor, what is wrong?" She replied, "There is something or someone in my room." I was thinking, *I know there is someone in your room; you have three other roommates*. She began to explain that the woman who occupied the room or bed before her had died and some things were taking place that she could not explain. She did say that the woman did not die in the room; she died in Cozumel. Eleanor continued to say that she wanted me to go to her room and pray over it. I told her that she had to get permission from her supervisor before I could do that. She agreed. I told her I would go with her the following week.

I know here in the Western culture we do not believe in ghosts or other spirits other than the Holy Spirit, unless you happen to be dabbling in witch craft or other things of the dark. But, to some people from other countries, this is real to them. I did not make light of what she was telling me because of the look on her face. This girl was scared.

We had our staff meeting the following Monday, and I told the guys about what I had been told and asked for some guidance. Ben said in one of his classes they had been talking about this very thing. We all agreed that we needed to pray very hard that week, and especially for me. I have to admit I was a little unnerved about the whole thing, but I prayed and asked God to be with me and to go before me that Sunday. I also asked Ben to go with me the following Sunday because he had asked his professor for some advice. Sunday came, and I had a peace and could feel the presence of God. We prayed before we left the center that God would already be working ahead of us. We met with Eleanor and proceeded to her room. We went inside and met one of her roommates, and she was glad to see us. We began to ask some questions about the woman who occupied the room before Eleanor. Eleanor said that she would be asleep and all of a sudden something would hit her and wake her up, but none of the other girls were awake. One of Eleanor's roommates said she was cleaning the bathroom and the lights were turned off, but there was no one else in the room. We asked if there was anything in the room that belonged to the deceased woman, and Eleanor pointed to a small box on the night stand containing a clove of garlic, a small cup of salt, a tiny statue of the

Virgin Mary, and a tiny Bible. We began reading scripture and explaining what the scripture meant and how to apply it to their lives. We also asked the girls about their own salvation. They said they were Christians and believed that Jesus died for their sins. Ben and I spent better than an hour and a half talking to them and reassuring them that know matter where they go, God was with them. Ben suggested that we pray and hold hands. I suggested that if the girls were more comfortable praying in their language to do so. Ben encouraged Eleanor to start first and then we would each pray after she had prayed. When we finished, both of the girls said they felt a peace. We encouraged them to continue to pray together when they felt uncomfortable. We did remove the box containing the clove of garlic, salt, statue, and Bible from the room and tossed it in to a trash can outside of the ship. On a subsequent visit, I talked with the girls. They said that they had not had any problems since that one visit. We can now see the relief in their faces. They have a smile now and not the look of fear.

I talked to Philip and told him that I have been praying for a revival to take place on this ship. He replied, "It sounds like that God may be starting to touch the hearts of some of the crew and the devil did not like it and this was his way of trying to stop it." I can tell a difference each Sunday I go on board. Please continue to pray for each of the chaplains (Philip, Norman, Ron, and Ben) as we face the challenges of ministering to the men and women from all around the world. Choose one chaplain and pray for him each day for a week. When you finish praying, start on another name the next week.

**In Memory**

**In Memory of:**

Mr. Herbert Ballard  
 Rev. Phillip LaBorde  
 Dr. C.H. Melton  
 Mr. F.C. Sibley  
 Mr. Roy Strain  
 Mr. Everett Thomas

**Given by:**

Mr. Ray Arnold  
 Mrs. Alice LaBorde  
 Mrs. Vera Melton  
 Mr. Ray Arnold  
 Mr. Ray Arnold  
 Mrs. Everett Thomas

**In Honor**

**In Honor of:**

Mr. Raymond Franklin  
 Mrs. Mary Ellen Logan  
 Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum  
 Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum  
 Rev. John Vandercook  
 Rev. John Vandercook

**Given by:**

Mrs. Robert Stewart  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Spooner  
 Mrs. Melissa Poag  
 Mrs. Marjorie Winstead  
 Mr. Thomas Brunet  
 Mr. W.M. Leach

**Building Fund / Square Foot Fund**

Mr. Ray Arnold  
 Mr. Thomas Brunet  
 Mr. Charles Cook  
 Mr. & Mrs. Pete DePaoli  
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Mangum

Mr. Thomas Odom  
 Mrs. Melissa Poag  
 Mr. Wayne Tubbs  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Turner  
 Mr. Horace Wiggins

**2011 Statistics**

|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| <i>Ships visited</i>             | 56    |
| <i>Seafarers contacted</i>       | 2,065 |
| <i>Port workers contacted</i>    | 130   |
| <i>Countries represented</i>     | 39    |
| <i>Seafarers visiting center</i> | 1,144 |
| <i>Professions of faith</i>      | 1     |
| <i>Scriptures distributed</i>    | 20    |
| <i>Jesus videos</i>              | 8     |
| <i>Courtesy trips</i>            | 128   |

**2011 Budget Requirements**

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Budget needs</i>          | \$ 50,000.00   |
| <i>Budget income</i>         | \$ 43,812.97   |
| <i>Building fund balance</i> | (\$366,217.34) |

**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can keep up with all the latest news, view our calendar of events, view *The Anchor* online, and even make a donation by visiting our website at [www.gmm.org](http://www.gmm.org).

You can also keep in touch by viewing our page on Facebook. To find us simply search on Global Maritime Ministries and then click on the "like" button.



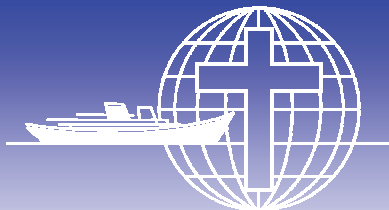
**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!**

Thanking people for their hard work is so important, and we have many people to thank for a recent fundraising effort held on behalf of Global Maritime Ministries. In February, Metairie Baptist Church in Metairie, Louisiana, hosted a huge garage sale to benefit the ministry. We took over all of the fellowship hall, a foyer area, several Sunday school rooms, and the hallway because we had so many wonderful donations from so many wonderful people. There was a lot of stuff! Thank you to those who donated items.

The number of volunteers needed to pull off the garage sale was huge as well. For months leading up to the sale, many hands collected, sorted, and organized items. The week leading up to the garage sale, volunteers gathered at Metairie Baptist Church to stage the items for the sale. The Friday night and Saturday of the sale, volunteers, staff, and board members pitched in to help. When all was said and done, more than \$3,000 was raised for the ministry! These funds will be used to help us complete the second floor of the center.

At the risk of forgetting someone's name, I won't try to name everyone involved; however, Mrs. Pat Trembley and the ladies at Metairie Baptist Church deserve a huge round of thanks for being in charge of the event. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!





# 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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## God's Provision

*Ron Townsend*

Last week Ben and I had the opportunity to spend several evenings with a group of seafarers who were from the country of Turkey. We had a great time of fellowship with these men through their generosity of providing us dinner each night on the ship. In return, we ministered to their immediate needs of Walmart and Best Buy! However, there was a difficulty with the language barrier between them and us. God had already made provision for the language barrier, though. Ben has a friend who lived in Turkey for five years and who speaks their language very well. We were able to get him to come down to the center and help us communicate to these seafarers. What this happened to be was a gift from God.

The next night they came to the center, and we had the opportunity to sit around and talk with these men and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. All these men come from a Muslim background, but each one of them was very open to hear what we had to say. As we were sitting around and sharing with some of the men, I looked over to see three others sitting around reading the Bible in their language and talking about what it had to say.

I thank God for providing us Ben's friend James who took the time each night from his busy schedule and family to come down to the center to share in this wonderful time of fellowship and ministry to these men. I know these

seafarers saw and felt the love of Jesus Christ in their lives because they told me the last night in port how much they appreciated what we did for them.

I ask you to pray with me that God would use these nights we shared with them to start revealing His truth in their lives. Several of these men took with them the Bibles they had been reading, Bibles that are provided by our supporters. You are making a difference in these seafarers' lives through your financial gifts and prayer support.

